

FBI

DAILY REPORT

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ARGENTINA

CHILEAN AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES BEAGLE DISPUTE

PY10231Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2140 GMT 10 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Jan--Shortly before leaving for his country Chilean Ambassador Rene Rojas Galdames indicated that negotiation is the best way to solve all problems. He was responding to a question about the border conflict between the two countries over the Beagle area and the southern part of the continent. The ambassador indicated that his trip to Santiago is a routine one which he makes once a month to report to his government. He then went on to recall the statement of Argentine Foreign Minister Oscar Antonio Montes, who had said that the doors are open to negotiation: "I can say the same. Negotiations are open and it is possible that there will be an agreement," he said.

As to the reports that the Argentine Government has rejected the ruling of the arbitration panel, the ambassador expressed his regret at not being able to answer the question. He added that Chile's public opinion agrees with that of Argentina in hoping that the governments will be able to overcome the existing conflicts. He concluded by stressing that his greatest desire is that the differences be solved through diplomatic channels and negotiation, and reiterated: "I have always believed that negotiation is the best way to solve all problems."

V CORPS CHECKS SOUTHERN UNITS' READINESS

PY102115Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 10 Jan 77 PY

[Text] Maj Gen Jose Antonio Vaquero, commander of V Corps, headquartered in Bahia Blanca, has started an inspection tour of all posts in the Patagonia which are included in the 4th Infantry Brigade, in order to check the degree of operational ability of the various units and facilities at their normal sites or at sites where exercises are usually carried out.

The posts under V corps command are located in the southern part of the country and include the units headquartered in Viedma, Trelew, Comodoro Rivadavia, Sarmiento, Puerto Deseado, Rio Gallegos, Commandante Piedrabuena and Ushuaia.

TWO POLISH SCIENTISTS HOSPITALIZED IN USHUAIA

PY092326Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2205 GMT 9 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Ushuaia, 9 Jan--Two Polish scientists, members of the ship (Garnuszewski) which is doing research work in the Antarctic, were brought into this capital by the navy's high speed boat Indomita after inhaling butane gas.

The scientists are Professors (Kraisato Birkelnmajer) and (Stanislav Baranowski), who after being treated at Ushuaia Naval Base were hospitalized at the local regional hospital for specialized medical treatment. It was reported that (Kirkelnmajer) is recovering satisfactorily and that (Baranowski) is under permanent observation.

DETAILS PROVIDED ON NEW UNDERWATER GAS PIPELINE

PY101422Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0040 GMT 10 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Jan--The state gas enterprise today signed an agreement with the enterprises which won the bids on 7 November, 1977, for the construction of the San Sebastian-El Condor underwater pipeline.

The cost of the project will be \$56,863,510 (3,136,000,000 pesos). The agreement was signed by Gabriel Agustín Neel, general administrator of the State Gas Enterprise, and by [words indistinct] H. de Metz and engineer (Bibiloni) on behalf of the construction firms of E.T.P.M. (Entrepose G.T.M. pour les Travaux Pétroliers Maritimes) and ECOFISA (Empresa Constructora Financiera S.A.).

Energy Secretary Daniel Brunella, Coordination and Policies Undersecretary Federico Amadeo, National Fuels Director Osvaldo E. Calcagno and IDB and State Gas Enterprise officials attended the ceremony.

This underwater section will have a length of 37 kilometers and a width of 610 millimeters. The gas pipeline will be 180 kilometers long, including the land sections already under construction by the Government Oil Deposits [YPF] processing plant in San Sebastián to Cape Espirity Santo--north of the island of Tierra del Fuego--and from Cape Virgenes--in the south of Santa Cruz Province--to the head of the El Condor-Pico Truncado gas pipeline. This pipeline, undertaken by the State Gas Enterprise and financed by the IDB, is the first of its type in South America and it will allow the Tierra del Fuego gas reserves to be used.

During the first stage it will transport 3.5 million cubic meters per day, permitting a reduction in the import of oil and oil byproducts amounting to approximately \$100 million per year.

BRIEFS

GENDARMERIE OFFICER INSTALLED--Buenos Aires, 27 December--The chief of the National Gendarmerie, Brig Gen Fernando Santiago, today installed General Commandant Francisco Roldan as chief of the northeast region of the National Gendarmerie. Roldan replaces General Commandant Hector Parodi, who has retired. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1435 GMT 27 Dec 77 PY]

NEW JAPANESE AMBASSADOR--During a ceremony at the Casa Rosada, Japanese Ambassador Watary Owada today presented his credentials to President Jorge Rafael Videla. [Buenos Aires Radio El Mundo in Spanish 1500 GMT 27 Dec 77 PY]

AMBASSADOR TO NETHERLANDS--Julio Alberto Barberis was named Argentina's ambassador to the Netherlands according to official reports disclosed today. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1230 GMT 29 Dec 77 PY]

RWANDAN AMBASSADOR--Buenos Aires, 26 Dec--The national government has agreed to the appointment of Bonaventure Ubaliyoro as the new Rwandan ambassador to Argentina. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2245 GMT 26 Dec 77 PY]

AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS--Argentine President Jorge Rafael Videla received today during a ceremony at Government House the credentials of the new Swedish ambassador to Argentina, Earl-Anders Ingvar Wollter. [Buenos Aires Radio El Mundo in Spanish 1500 GMT 26 Dec 77 PY]

REPORTAGE ON STATE OF EMERGENCY, DEMONSTRATIONS

Emergency Status Declared

FY102246Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2240 GMT 10 Jan 78 FY

[Text] La Paz, 10 Jan--The military and police forces and the state security organizations were put on a state of emergency today after the Bolivian Government revealed the existence of a subversive plan. In a communique delivered this afternoon to the local news-media, the armed forces command affirmed that the subversive plan is aimed at preventing the democratization of the country.

'Strict Security' in La Paz

FY111316Y La Paz Radio La Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 10 Jan 78 FY

[Summary] We have just received a telephone call from our reporter (Rafael Ortega).
[Telephone call begins]

Strict security measures have been taken in the last few hours around all public buildings, main avenues and the sectors near Mariscal Santa Cruz and El Prado Avenues.

Police and security forces have strictly fulfilled their duties. There are many police vans and police dogs in the area near the La Paz Soccer Stadium where large groups of university students were demonstrating.

Just recently, Interior Minister Guillermo Jimenez Gallo charged that the Bolivian people are facing a subversive process from the left and called on students not to disturb the country's democratic process. [End telephone call] "We would like to add that the armed forces general command has ordered a state of emergency for the Bolivian Armed Forces and police as a result of the political situation the country is currently experiencing."

Further Details

FY102310Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2245 GMT 10 Jan 78 FY

[Text] La Paz, 10 Jan--The Bolivian Government put on a state of emergency today all its security organizations, including military, police and civil guard forces, in order to confront an alleged subversive plan headed by the extreme left. The commander in chief of the armed forces, President Hugo Banzer, said this afternoon in a communique that the subversive plan intends to prevent the democratization of the country.

The drastic official decision is made "in view of a clear and obvious subversive effort led by extremism, which is using some organizations and groups of people with the clear purpose of opposing the institutionalization of the country, a process which has the support of the majority of the people and all of the armed forces."

Therefore, the commander in chief of the armed forces declares "the Bolivian armed and police forces and the security organizations to be in a state of emergency, with the purpose of safeguarding the measures approved by the government for the constitutionalization of the country and to confront any situation aimed at disturbing the current peace and order."

In the meantime, the hunger strikes continued as usual in four cities of the country, with approximately 500 men and women involved. Strong police squads were guarding various areas of the city in view of the announcement made by local university students that they would publicly state their opposition to the government this afternoon.

The interior minister, Gen Guillermo Jimenez Gallo, today said that the university march is guided by members of the National Liberation Army (ELN) and the Revolutionary Workers Party (POR). He pointed out that "the only thing they are looking for with this demonstration is to get scapegoats for subversive action."

Press Told of Subversive Plans

FY1111252Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sun Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 10 Jan 78 FY

[Text] Interior Minister Guillermo Jimenez Gallo today held a press conference at which he stated that the Bolivian people are confronting a subversive plan sponsored by the extreme left. He asked the journalists who attended the press conference to let it be known that the government will implement all legal means at its disposal to guarantee peace and tranquillity.

He said that the National Liberation Army [ELN], the Trotskyite Revolutionary Workers Party [POR], and the National Revolutionary Movement of the Left [MNRI], in addition to groups of frustrated, spiteful, or discontented people, were mainly responsible for the subversive plan.

Minister Jimenez Gallo indicated that although they have no support, the extremists have launched a hunger strike which is about to be solved. He urged Cardinal Jose Maurer to represent those who want amnesty and to negotiate with the appropriate government bodies. He also said that a small group of students of the Greater University of San Andres [UMSA]--because the majority are more concerned with their exams for the second semester of this year--have gotten involved in the hunger strike, together with subversive elements, in order to disrupt public order.

He said that the only thing sought by these demonstrations is to get scapegoats for this subversive action. The minister asked the journalists to urge the citizenry to take the necessary steps to avoid helping fulfill alien goals.

Jimenez Gallo stated that in view of the events, and even though the attitude of the government has been very prudent so far, the armed forces government of Gen Hugo Banzer will take the appropriate steps to deal with the situation. He warned that the government will act drastically against the subversives to defend people, tranquillity and social peace.

Gen Jimenez Gallo said that the government had rejected the appointment of Henry Meyer as the representative of the human rights organization because he is a foreigner and the conflict is of strictly local nature. The minister went on to add that there will be no state of siege and that the university will not be closed because the ones who are disrupting order at the university, with the aim of hindering the electoral process, constitute a very small group.

He stated that persons considered dangerous to the people will be arrested. Jimenez Gallo said that he had reported all this to the party representatives who met with him this morning to appoint their representatives to the Electoral Court, to prevent them from criticising the government for the measures it may implement later. Asked about a manifesto of a group of retired military officers, Jimenez Gallo said: I would prefer not to talk about this manifesto, because it falls within the jurisdiction of the armed forces, but it is connected with this subversive plan. The minister concluded by stating that the list of persons prohibited from returning from exile has been reduced because constant changes are taking place. He added that so far, at least 30 persons have solved their problems and can now return to the country.

At the same press conference the journalists were given a written communique which states the following:

Interpreting the desire of the people, the supreme government has called elections for 9 July, and has carried out a democratic opening to allow the people to choose their legitimate representatives. In spite of this call, and knowing that they lack popular support, the opposition has resorted to the instigation of hunger strike at university level and other demonstrations, thus hindering the democratic objectives of the supreme government.

At the labor level, the reactionaries are also desperately trying to obtain support to achieve their unmentionable antipatriotic goals by means of impossible claims whose only objective is to stimulate subversion.

Nothing else can be thought of the university demonstrations scheduled for today in clear opposition to the government's desire to carry out an election, an objective which the government is firmly decided to fulfill. The desire to destroy the electoral process can be clearly seen in each and every one of the subversive attitudes motivated by alien goals postulated by banners which can only bring sorrow to the people.

The Interior Ministry is fully aware that under the cover of these demonstrations, extremist politicians and subversive elements will attempt to use firearms. In view of this the Interior Ministry calls the subversives to abandon this suicidal attitude and urges the people to abstain from getting involved in the provocation.

As to the hunger strikes, measures are being implemented to solve the conflict within a framework of understanding and dialog by means of a committee which has been created for this purpose. In view of the above, the Interior Ministry states that it will enforce law and respect for authority for the good of public peace and tranquillity.

Student Demonstrations Continue

PY110046Y La Paz Radio La Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 10 Jan 78 FY

[Telephone report from downtown La Paz--presumably live]

[Summary] "Groups of university students along with some factory workers have carried out demonstrations demanding from the government a general amnesty, the return to work of all dismissed miners, and the withdrawal of military forces from the mining districts."

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BOLIVIA

The university students gathered in various areas of the city, including (Puente Avarca) and (Buenos Aires).

"The security forces of the Bolivian Police had to use all their resources to disperse the groups which were gathering to start the demonstrations." Despite the efforts by strong and well equipped police forces, the demonstration began at approximately 1845. The police and security forces were placed in various sectors of the city, mainly in the urban sectors and the poor sectors.

"At this time, there are still a few demonstrations in various neighborhoods of La Paz."

RETIRED OFFICERS ISSUE DOCUMENT ATTACKING REGIME

PY101935Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 0200 GNT 10 Jan 78 PY

[From the "Facetas" program]

[Text] We now have a signed copy of the document issued by a group of retired military officials on Sunday. It includes the most clear and severe criticisms of the armed forces government from a military group. How can it be that the document is signed by military officers who were until a few days ago, and in some cases until a few hours ago, still part of the government?

Many questions arose as a result of this document. We wonder if it is not true that there are disagreements within the military, or are there opponents to the official candidate?

The document is signed by a former housing and urban welfare minister, a former president of the military courts, a former member of the legislature, a former foreign minister from the Barrientos administration, two former interior ministers and other high-ranking retired officers. One of these is Gen Mario Adett Zamora, who until recently was inspector general of the armed forces.

The more important portions of this document follow.

"Our national history shows a chronic repetition of events which has been guided by a member of the armed forces who would, while representing the institution, distort an alleged representation, resulting in tragic consequences which would adversely affect the institution. That military policy has, more than once and with serious results, risked the professional lives of our comrades. In the name of democracy, let us end this policy.

"We are convinced by our many personal experiences that a political vacuum cannot be overcome by direct military participation in the political scene. There is a danger for the people, and the professional future of the ranks of military officials is seriously endangered by converting them into instruments foreign to their specific duties. Changing the armed forces into an armed political group impairs the careers of its members and prepares a climate adverse to the institution. We have to avoid this at any cost."

The document goes on to say that the armed forces should not and cannot dictate the structure of political groups which are vying for public acceptance. We have come to the conclusion that the armed institution cannot take part in this aspect of the nation's life because it would mean damaging its prestige and respectability.

"We foresee in the near future internal conflicts in the armed forces because they should be carrying out a role very different from the one they now perform. The real purpose of the armed forces is not to campaign in the streets for votes, not to control the country's political groups."

MNR Supports Document

PY101938Y Sucre Radio La Plata in Spanish 1630 GMT 10 Jan 78 PY

[Text] The National Revolutionary Movement [MNR] has issued a communique regarding the document published by a group of retired officers. The MNR supports the document, because "the whole Bolivian people is longing for the 9 July elections to arrive," it says.

JIMENEZ THREATENS TO CLOSE UNIVERSITY OVER STRIKES

PY070043Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 6 Jan 78 PY

[Text] At noon today the Bolivian interior minister stated that a subversive process is underway and added that if the university students continue with hunger strikes and other actions of similar nature, the government will be forced to close the university. General Jimenez Gallo stated that the subversive process uncovered by the government is orchestrated by persons who remain in hiding and indicated that the hunger strikes which are being carried out in different places are part of this subversive process. He said that the government is taking the necessary steps to prevent events which lead the country to a situation of chaos and anarchy.

LABOR MINISTER ASKS HALT TO STRIKES DURING TALKS

PY101810Y Sucre Radio La Plata in Spanish 1630 GMT 10 Jan 78 PY

[Text] A letter from the labor minister to the four miners' wives who have been on hunger strike for the longest time has proposed on behalf of the government that the strike be lifted in order to start talks on a solution of the conflict.

The labor minister's letter contains four points. The first deals with the general and unrestricted amnesty which is one of the conditions for a lifting of the strike. Regarding this subject the letter says that there are other ways in which this demand could be met and that the cases should be studied individually [words indistinct].

The second point refers to the rehiring of miners who have been dismissed for political and labor policy reasons since 9 July last year. Minister Mario Vargas says that this proposal refers to a labor-management relationship and should therefore be submitted to the management of the Mining Corporation of Bolivia [COMIBOL].

Regarding the freedom of labor organizations the government proposal says that a truly representative labor movement will be guaranteed. Regarding the withdrawal of the army from the mines, it is stressed that the armed forces should be present in any zone of the territory of the nation and that their presence does not signify a nonrecognition of individual guarantees.

Government, Strikers Deadlock

MY101242Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 9 Jan 78 PY

[Text] The northern Santa Cruz Provinces have declared a state of alert in view of the number of strikes which have broken out in the past few days. An official report indicates that a statement signed by representatives of the provinces of (Sandiestera, Sara) and (Chile Vigarne) expresses support for President Banzer's government and declares a state of alert until 10 January, when a state of emergency will be declared. The representatives reserve the right to take the necessary measures. They also express moral and material support for Interior Minister Gen Guillermo Jimenez Gallo.

Regarding the interior minister, he told reporters that the government is making every effort to find a solution to the strikes and indicated that the three commissions created to solve the problem have failed because of the intransigence of the strikers.

He said that a commission with decision-making powers should be organized to study and try to solve the proposals presented. He added: We in the government are ready to listen to any solution, but in view of the intransigence, we cannot do anything.

Meanwhile the Bolivian Permanent Assembly for Human Rights has asked the UN representative in La Paz. (Henry Meyer), to become the mediator to resolve the problem of hunger strikes. In this regard, the assembly sent a letter to the UN representative in Bolivia, noting that the request has come from the strikers.

The strikers want (Meyer) to hold contacts as soon as possible with their representatives, Dr Luis Adolfo Siles Salinas, Father Julio Tumir, and Hugo Fernandez, according to the letter. They added: If you accept this mediation, we would request as a first measure that you ask the supreme government to designate its official delegates to discuss the solution of this conflict as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, 12 groups totaling more than 300 people are holding hunger strikes in four different cities in the country and no possible solutions have been yet found by the government. The groups are made up of wives of exiled miners, miners, campesinos, university students, professionals, Catholic priests and executives of the Bolivian Permanent Assembly for Human Rights, whose centers are in La Paz, Oruro, Cochabamba and Potosi.

The strikes, the first of their kind in Bolivia, are for general and unrestricted amnesty, the re-instatement of dismissed workers, freedom for union activity and the withdrawal of the army from the mines.

Interior Minister Jimenez Gallo has expressed, as we have said, that he would not negotiate with a representative committee of the strikers regardless of whether it has decision-making powers to find a solution to the problem.

The strikes, which are in their 12th day, are receiving expressions of support from the interior and from abroad, and new members are joining the peaceful resistance of hunger strikers. The 12 groups of strikers, according to the report by the Bolivian Permanent Assembly for Human Rights is as follows: office of the archbishopric, 19 people, 14 girls; building of the morning newspaper PRESENCIA, 11 people; office of the United Nations, 13; Maria Auxiliadora Church, 18; Greater San Andres University, 28; office of the World Health Organization, 18; press union building, 10; Methodist Temple of [place indistinct], 17 people, including 6 children; Santa Monica Convent in Cochabamba, 18 people; San Martin Convent in Potosi, 17; and the industrial school in Oruro, 20.

Local observers and even government officials have expressed surprise for the increase in strikes, which now enjoy the support of a large number of students, and the possibility that the numbers of strikers may increase within the next few hours is not discarded.

UN Representative To Mediate

PY101342Y La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 1130 GMT 10 Jan 78 PY

[Text] The permanent UN representative in Bolivia, (Henry Meyer), has agreed to act as mediator between the government and the 346 hunger strikers who are fasting in four cities in this country. This news became known yesterday afternoon from trustworthy sources close to the (official) UN representative.

(Meyer's) intervention was officially requested by the Human Rights Permanent Assembly on behalf of the hunger strikers. The government has not yet announced whether it has accepted (Meyer's) mediation. It was learned, however, that before he accepted (Meyer) had talked with high government officials about the possibility of his mediation, and it is believed that he has accepted the task on the basis of the result of that consultation.

The interior minister yesterday asked the groups on hunger strike to appoint a commission to represent them and having enough decision-making power to be able to reach a prompt solution of the problem. Gen Guillermo Jimenez Gallo also said that the government had [words indistinct] to reach a solution, but that they had failed because of what was considered to be intractable positions on the part of the strikers. He repeated that the government is ready to make every effort to arrive at a solution, because "this situation no longer benefits anybody," he said.

AYOROA EXPLAINS AIMS OF NEW 'TOPATER' GROUP

PY110142Y La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 9 Jan 78 p 1 PY

[Text] "At this time there must not be a military candidate who is on active duty," stated General Juan Ayoroa (ret), who declared that the armed forces must implement an impartial, free, honest and truly democratic electoral process "so that the people can elect the leaders they want."

In an interview with EL DIARIO, General Ayoroa indicated that the armed forces must return to their quarters and not turn into a political instrument to sponsor a nomination.

He also stated that "all Bolivians must have a chance, through a truly democratic opening," in reference to the request for the return of exiles made by a sector of the population through a hunger strike.

He repeated that a number of retired generals and officers, as citizens who have rights and duties, have grouped together "in the 'Topater' civilian-military group [agrupacion civil militar 'Topater'], which is not just a brotherhood."

He quoted a statement published by that group in a morning newspaper which said: "History shows a sad repetition of events carried out by a few members of the armed forces who, in the name of the armed forces, distorted their role as representatives and then caused tragic consequences which discredited the institution. This military policy has often endangered the professional life of our comrades, with serious consequences. As a homage to democracy, let us say enough to this suicidal policy."

He indicated that in the call they make for unity of the armed forces and the people, they are sponsoring a general opening so that a true democratic process can take place. He said that in this connection, a union opening is of utmost priority.

He emphasized that the armed forces must only intervene in leading the country under situations of very deep crisis, without turning into a political party. He also said that an example of such a situation was given on 21 August, 1971, when "there was chaos, anarchy, and a disintegrating childlike attitude which forced the armed forces to mix with politics."

In this regard, the statement issued by the Topater group stated: "We believe, through our own long experience, that the excuse of a political vacuum can in no way justify direct participation by the armed forces in the political struggle. This danger can seriously influence the professional future of young officers by turning them into an instrument which has nothing to do with their specific functions."

ARMED FORCES ANNOUNCE HIGH-LEVEL PROMOTIONS

PY110145Y La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 4 Jan 78 p 1 PY

[Summary] The armed forces general command has announced the following promotions:

Army: Brigadier Generals Hernan Terrazas Cepedes and Angel H. Salmon Cordova to major generals; and Colonels Humberto Palacio Medina, Jose Gallardo Sempertegui, Rene Villaroel Rojas, Augusto Calderon Miranda and Felix Camacho Carrasco to brigadier generals.

Air Force: Brigadier Generals Juan Pereda Asbun and Luis Garcia Pereira to major generals; and Colonels Ernesto Camacho Hurtado, Gaston Lupo Gamarra, Victor Lora Rios, Oswaldo Roca Salvatierra and Antonio Tovar Pierola to brigadier generals.

Navy: Rear Adm Gutemberg Barroso Hurtado to vice admiral; and Capt Fernando Guillen Monje to rear admiral.

The army also ordered 19 generals to be put on active reserve status and the navy did the same with two admirals. The promotions to the ranks of general and admiral covered only 11 out of the 21 available vacancies.

INCREASED TRADE WITH PARAGUAY BEING STUDIED

PY101329Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 9 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Bolivia and Paraguay, which are members of the URUPABOL group, must adopt measures leading to positive reciprocal trade according to [word indistinct]. These sources have noted that Paraguay is interested in increasing its trade with Bolivia. These two nations, in addition to Uruguay, which is also a member of the River Plate group, must try to remove any difficulties which may exist and adopt those measures leading to a greater exchange among their private economic sectors to achieve an intensive trade. In view of the precarious communications system, Paraguayan-Bolivian trade is virtually non-existent at present, but there is strong evidence that Bolivia and Paraguay must adopt measures within URUPABOL leading to a positive increase of their reciprocal trade.

11 Jan 78

B R A Z I L

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ABREU CONFIRMS REPORT ON CORRUPTION SUBMITTED

FY110151Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2010 GMT 10 Jan 78 FY

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 10 Jan--Gen Hugo Abreu, former chief of the Presidential Military Household, confirmed the existence of a confidential report sent to President Ernesto Geisel, but refused to report on the content of the document.

The existence of the report was recently reported by the newsmedia, which revealed that the document contained accusations of corruption against various government officials. Allegedly included among the accused are Golbery do Couto e Silva, chief of the Civilian Household, Humberto Barreto, president of the Federal Economic Fund; former ministers Mario Andreazza and Antonio Carlos Magalhaes; and the two sons of Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo, President Geisel's candidate as his successor.

Abreu denied that the report submitted to Geisel included any names and indicated that "the National Security Council (CSN) deals with security matters and not with persons." He avoided comment on political matters such as the presidential succession and the position of military officers on the political reforms which Geisel wants to implement, indicating that "although I am no longer the CSN secretary and chief of the military household, I am still too closely linked to that position to be able to state my opinion as a citizen."

Although he refused to answer most questions, General Abreu, who resigned as chief of Geisel's military household last week, said that it is not "technically possible" for General Figueiredo to be promoted to four-star general next March. He said, "he is the sixth on the list and there is only one vacancy. I believe that Gen Antonio Carlos de Andrada Serra should be promoted."

Asked if the army high command has any reservations on Figueiredo's candidacy, proposed by the chief of state, the general said that "the high command supports President Geisel." He believes that the armed forces fulfilled their mission when there was a threat to the national security and that "whether they were worn out or not is a minor problem."

With regard to the return of the country to the state of law, Abreu said that "if the situation is difficult, individual freedoms must be reduced to benefit the state. If the situation eases, naturally, the guarantees of the state are reduced to benefit individual freedoms."

REPORTED 1978 AMENDMENT WOULD ELIMINATE AI-5

FY111237Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2202 GMT 10 Jan 78 FY

[Excerpt] Rio de Janeiro, 10 Jan--It was reported here today that President Ernesto Geisel will submit to Congress, during the first half of 1978, a constitutional amendment which will allow the abrogation of exceptional laws. The report--released by the daily TRIBUNA DE IMPRENSA, which has been subjected to prior censorship for the past 8 years--was neither confirmed nor denied by the appropriate organizations. According to the report, the constitutional amendment which will be proposed by General Geisel will be designed to create safeguards for the defense of the state in emergency situations, thus facilitating the abrogation of the Institutional Act No. 5, also during the first half of 1978.

FIGUEIREDO'S VIEWS ON FOREIGN POLICY REVIEWED

FY092251Y Rio de Janeiro O G GLOBO in Portuguese 6 Jan 78 p 4 FY

[Text] Brasilia--Advisers to Planalto Palace believe the appointment of Gen Joao Baptista de Figueiredo as ARENA candidate, before President Geisel's trips to Mexico and Uruguay this month and to the FRG in March, will not harm agreements with those countries but rather strengthen them. It is argued that Figueiredo's appointment assures foreign leaders that all of Geisel's negotiations will be continued by his successor's government.

It has already been confirmed that General Figueiredo will join the official entourage on the trip to the FRG. It has not yet been decided if he will accompany the president on his trips to Mexico and Uruguay.

Because of his duties in the National Intelligence Service, General Figueiredo is aware of important aspects of the government's foreign policy, especially concerning the nuclear agreement with the FRG and the construction of the Itaipu hydroelectric plant, a joint undertaking with Paraguay.

General Figueiredo's stand on these two subjects is pretty definite and has already been presented on several occasions. During difficult moments in relations with the United States, especially concerning the nuclear agreement, he stated that the Brazilian stand was uncompromising with respect to its strict observance, and that the FRG would proceed in the same manner despite U.S. pressure on both sides. Figueiredo completely endorses Geisel's main line in foreign policy. He agrees that the relationship with the United States should be geared toward an independent position, while maintaining traditional understanding and harmony.

In the case of the protest against military agreements, Figueiredo always favored a firm attitude, while understanding that the international situation is changing and that Brazil, as an emerging power, already has viable alternatives in the military field.

One of Figueiredo's many comments during the difficult stage in the relationship with the United States with reference to the nuclear agreement was directed at the press. He was sorry that certain confidential reports were published, weakening the Brazilian position for the negotiations. At one point, he said the following: "Why do you (the press) not assume a more understanding position in view of the situation, consulting the government itself?"

During some conversations General Figueiredo disclosed that he considered some of the press criticism of the government to be the result of traumas left from when prior censorship was still in effect. However, he considers this a temporary situation balanced by the possibility of press debate which has been established in the country.

MDB HEAD SAYS FIGUEIREDO SELECTION NOT DEMOCRATIC

FY091810Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 6 Jan 78 p 8 FY

[Excerpt] In a press interview given in his office yesterday, MDB President Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes said that, although he does not raise any personal objection to Gen Joao Baptista de Figueiredo, he condemns the process by which Figueiredo was designated as ARENA candidate for the nation's presidency.

He added that it has been seen in recent years that the regime which governs Brazil is not democratic. On the contrary, it can be seen that the country is far from being a democracy. The nation's presidency is by far the politically most important post in the nation. Considering the concentration of power which even makes inroads into the autonomy of the states, Brazil's president has more power than the U.S. president. That position with such great and serious responsibilities will not be filled by designees from political parties as called for by law and even less through elections by the citizens. Because it leaves the people outside of the process, this regime is worse than a monarchy. At least in the latter the king or queen undergoes a long training process for the post and the choice is known well in advance. In Brazil a citizen knows that he is going to be the nation's president only after becoming 60 years old, and the nation knows nothing of his qualifications for the post.

Ulysses Guimaraes said that he had been in politics for many years, and furthermore as president of a party, and yet he has not had "the honor of knowing Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo."

"Judging by statements of people who are acquainted with General Figueiredo, I believe in his qualifications. But the problem is that the virtues and flaws of a candidate who is to govern the nation must be well known, since no human being is free of the latter. And the decisive factor is that such a judgment must be made by the citizens in free elections. This is democracy's fundamental rule which, among us, is being disregarded."

Although he does not agree with the designation process, Guimaraes recognized that General Figueiredo's candidacy is a fait accompli. He then expressed what the MDB expects of Figueiredo: "If it is as is being said, that the new president will reestablish a democratic regime, he will be doing Brazil an historical service and will earn the status of statesman for himself."

Asked if, by the information he has available, he could consider General Figueiredo as a democrat, Guimaraes replied: "Going by what I have read and by his father's example, I can say that the indications are in that direction. In fact, Gen Euclides de Figueiredo demonstrated his democratic convictions even in the face of danger and exile. However, the important thing is that such judgment should not be only mine. It should be expressed through the ballot box by all the people."

A journalist asked the MDB president who was the most democratic president among the revolutionary presidents. Guimaraes answered: "All the revolutionary presidents have had the regime's fundamental defect, which is not democratic. He exempted President Castello Branco up until he promulgated AI-2, because he was constitutionally elected and, up to that point, he governed by the 1946 constitution which is the most democratic of all our constitutions."

FREITAS NOBRE CRITICIZES SELECTION OF FIGUEIREDO

PY091455Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2123 GMT 6 Jan 78 PY

[Excerpt] In a statement disclosed here today opposition leader Freitas Nobre acknowledged that there is a "semantic improvement" in the political thinking attribute to Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo. The leader of the Brazilian Democratic Movement [MDB] in the Chamber of Deputies stated that "all governments of the present phase start out with promises of democratization but invariably end up by not fulfilling them."

Acknowledging that the political thinking attributed by the press to General Figueiredo shows some democratic aspects, the opposition leader criticized the process of election of the candidate.

Pedro Nóbrega said this process, in addition to revealing the impossibility of a change of power, also reveals that the government's own party, the National Renewal Alliance [ARENA], "does not have any chance of governing, of participating in the government or of electing its leaders."

CHURCH LEADERS COMMENT ON FIGUEIREDO APPOINTMENT

PY092300Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2110 GMT 6 Jan 78 FY

[Excerpt] Rio de Janeiro, 6 Jan--Bishops and businessmen from various Brazilian cities have issued opinions regarding the appointment of Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo as successor to General Ernesto Geisel as president in March, 1979.

In Sao Paulo, Cardinal Paulo Evaristo Arns stated: "We return to the 1968 situation: as president, a general--chief of the National Intelligence Service [SNI], as vice-president, a civilian. Lets hope we will be lucky."

The cardinal alluded to the fact that in 1968, during the administration of Gen Arthur da Costa e Silva, who was previously SNI chief, the Exceptional Institutional Act No. 5 (AI-5) was created in Brazil, an act which President Geisel promised to abolish by the end of 1977.

Monsignor Arns noted that the people hope the next president will again grant autonomy to the three branches of the government and that the executive branch will carry out social reforms.

He stated he was certain that General Figueiredo aims to carry out social reform programs, adding: "With this task in mind he can become a part of history, and this is the only way to succeed."

In Curitiba, Bishop Pedro Fedalto expressed support for the indirect appointment of the president and noted that the pope himself is elected by indirect vote. Monsignor Fedalto stated: "If General Figueiredo was chosen to govern the country, it is because he is capable."

In the state of Rio Grande do Sul, however, the majority of bishops condemned the system of appointing a president without holding a direct consultation with the people, noting that "the practice of democracy is what makes democracy."

Msgr Jacob Higert, bishop of the southern city of Cruz Alta, wondered: "If the people do not participate, if they do not vote, how can the democratic process improve?"

Furthermore, Msgr Ivo Lorscheiter, secretary general of the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops [CNBB], declined to comment on the appointment of General Figueiredo, but noted that "the true social doctrine of the church states principles and demands so that the process of appointment of government leaders does not eliminate true and genuine participation by the people."

FIRST NUCLEAR POWER PLANT TO OPERATE in 1979

PY091225Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 9 Jan 78 FY

[Text] Minister Shigeaki Ueki has reported that the first nuclear power plant will operate in Brazil in 1979 and he pointed out that the plant will have an initial capacity of 646 megawatts.

He also reported that the installation of two more plants with a capacity of 1,325 megawatts each is also being considered, under the agreement between Brazil and FRG.

Nuclebras Head Is Interviewed

PY092315Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 8 Jan 78 p 6 PY

[Undated interview granted by NUCLEBRAS President Paulo Nogueira Batista to O GLOBO's Eduardo Pinto]

[Text] [Question] What is the current status of the nuclear accord with the FRG, 2 1/2 years after it has been signed?

[Answer] The implementation of the nuclear accord is in full swing. We started 1975 negotiating the contract; by 1976 we had gone on to the next stage. Without even concluding the contract negotiations we were able to go on with the designing and planning of the two joint projects provided for in the accord. We could say that in 1977 we were able to actually begin the construction of certain projects.

It is obvious that the accord and the nuclear plan--which are not the same, since the accord is part of the much broader plan--are made up of a great number of projects of various kinds, and it is impossible to carry them out at the same time. Some of the more complex projects demand more planning. The result of this is that in some sectors there is already something you can see, while in others no building has been done yet. However, all sectors are developing normally.

[Question] In which sectors has there been any building done?

[Answer] The sectors in which we are--not more advanced, because as I have already said, development is normal in all of them--but in which there is something to see, are the reactor factory in Itaguaí, where we have already started to put up the metal framework of the main warehouse. There the ground-levelling work has been finished as well as the foundations, and we are now starting to put up the framework. The other concrete example, although it is not properly part of the accord projects, but an essential one for the nuclear plan, is the installation of the uranium mining and processing complex in Pocos de Caldas. There we have already started mining activities, with the pickling of the first lot. The work started in June and if one goes to Pocos de Caldas now one can see that an impressive amount of work has been done. This week we will open bids for the mining and removal of overburden [estereo] to guarantee the operation of the uranium enrichment plant in 1979.

[Question] The reactor factory is scheduled to begin operating in 1979. Is this still valid?

[Answer] Yes. Obviously this depends on whether the suppliers will get us the equipment in time, and here there is always some room for surprise. However, so far we have been abiding strictly by the contracts and there has been nothing to indicate that we will be unable to begin operating the factory in 1979.

[Question] It will start by assembling the first reactors?

[Answer] No. That is not so. We will begin by manufacturing non-nuclear components, because some time is needed to adjust the machines and train the personnel to use the equipment. The manufacturing of the nuclear components will begin 6 months after the dedication of the factory--still in 1979 if everything goes well--so that we can build the third reactor of those provided for in the accord.

The factory is designed to produce up to two reactors per year, but initially it will be programmed to produce only one. This factory will produce all the components of the steam-generating nuclear plant: This includes the reactor itself, the containment vessel, and the internal components of the reactor which come into contact with the fuel, the pressure vessel, the batteries [acumuladores], and the main pumps of the large heat exchangers, each of which is 20 meters high and weighs more than 400 tons. As to the containment vessel, it will be over 13 meters high and will weigh over 500 tons.

The reactor factory of Itaguaí will be one of the most modern of its type in the world. We could say that almost one-fourth of a nuclear plant is made up of the nuclear steam-generating system. This factory will manufacture every bit of this system for the next reactor after Angra III.

As to the other component of the nuclear plant, we are making every effort toward industrial promotion, starting with the consortium for heavy mechanics created last September. We believe that we will be able to make 55 or 60 percent of the components of the fourth nuclear plant, reaching almost 100 percent with the last of the series.

[Question] Would you say that the electric-electronic sector will be where we will be most dependent on imports?

[Answer] No. For some time our greatest dependency will be in the line of large-size turbines and generators. However, we plan to have a high percentage of local manufacture in this sector by the end of the first stage of the nuclear plan (about 1985-90). Besides, we should bear in mind that we also depend on imports for our regular electric equipment, and in this sector activities began a long time ago.

[Question] What are the current technical training programs for personnel and how many people are involved in them?

[Answer] We have two different types of programs underway: One is training through two main agreements, with the federal universities of Rio de Janeiro and Minas Gerais. We select graduates from all areas of engineering and give them a 1-year training course in nuclear technology. This involves about 70 or 60 persons. The selection requirements are very strict. Because of the needs of the nuclear plan, almost two-thirds of these people are mechanical engineers, then come metallurgical engineers, electronics engineers, and chemical engineers. All in all we trained 82 persons in 1977. We even trained some in the manufacturing of reactors. Of these, 35 have returned from training already and are working in NUCLEN [NUCLEBRAS Engineering, Inc].

In the field of uranium enrichment and recycling, the program is "on the job" training, that is full training by working. This is the right way to carry out a transference of technology.

Although these technicians have attained a high degree of specialization, they will be fully qualified only after Angra II and Angra III are finished, once they have gone through building a nuclear plant from beginning to end.

This will give them international status and this requires at least 5 or 6 years of practical work.

[Question] Should the implementation of the nuclear accord be interrupted for some reason at this point, would there be anything concrete left?

[Answer] The implementation of the accord will not be interrupted under any circumstances. Neither will the speed of its implementation be decreased. Should this happen the damage would be enormous. We would be halted at takeoff. We are still not airborne but we will make it. We need this accord very much and will implement it fully.

In this regard there is an impressive amount of work already done. In the last 2 1/2 years, in addition to NUCLEBRAS itself, built practically from scratch because the existing Brazilian company for nuclear technology was good only for managing [presumably research] institutes, we have created four subsidiaries to take care of the accord: NUCLEN for nuclear engineering; NUCLEF [NUCLEBRAS Heavy Equipment, Inc] for the manufacturing of reactors; NUCLEI [NUCLEBRAS Isotope Enrichment, Inc] to take care of the enrichment process; and NUCLAM [NUCLEBRAS Mining Assistance Inc] to deal with research and the prospecting for uranium. There is also NUCLEMON [NUCLEBRAS Monazite and Associated Elements Ltd], which operates in the monazitic fields. NUCLEN alone has over 350 employees, most of which are highly qualified engineers.

We are also reorganizing the institute so that they can have a place in the nuclear plan. Nowadays, NUCLEBRAS' system is employing over 3,800 persons. In the area of uranium research alone there are 64 projects. Together with our German partners we are involved in a huge project which involves plants for uranium enrichment and recycling, scientific and technological research, and the designing and basic tasks for the Angra II and Angra III plants.

[Question] How much has been invested in the nuclear plan, and where does the money come from?

[Answer] As a whole the nuclear plan involves investments in power-generating nuclear plants, and this is financed by Furnas [Powerplants, S.A.]; such is the case of Angra II and Angra III, and investments in industries and nuclear engineering, which is the responsibility of NUCLEBRAS.

I am unable to tell you exactly how much Furnas has invested up to now. I can tell you that it has guaranteed foreign financing for imported equipment and ELECTROBRAS' financing for the buildings.

As to NUCLEBRAS, we have so far invested approximately 4 billion cruzeiros in 3 years. We have been authorized to spend 4.2 billion cruzeiros more in 1978. As to where the money comes from, 30 percent of it comes from financing, two-thirds of which is foreign, and of the rest, one-fifth is our own resources and the remainder comes from the national treasury by way of advances against the nation's capital in the enterprise (the nation holds 98 percent of the shares).

[Question] What is the proportion of Brazilians and Germans on the executive boards of the enterprises within the nuclear area?

[Answer] In view of the high degree of technological complexity, the chiefs of the technical departments of our "joint ventures" are German. The arrangements for the transference of technology provide for the gradual training of Brazilian technicians so that they can take over these jobs in the future.

In the specific case of NUCLEN, 40 percent of its current engineering staff is made up of Germans. In 1982, the growing number of Brazilian technicians will reduce this proportion to 10 percent.

[Question] As to the economic prospects of the nuclear program, how long will it take to pay back the investments?

[Answer] Throughout the world, investments in nuclear industry are marked by high cost and take a long time to mature. The "lead-time" between the prospecting and the mining of uranium is about 8 years. Between the stage of production of concentrates and the manufacturing of the fuel element there is a 2-year interval. Only after the fuel is delivered to the nuclear plant can NUCLEBRAS send a bill.

As to the building of nuclear power plants, at least 9 years are spent between the selection of the building site and the putting into operation of the plant. We hope that we will be able to reduce this worldwide lead-time in the field of mining. It is possible that in Itatira, Ceara, and Amorinopolis in Goias, in view of the mining conditions and the local infrastructure, we may be able to begin mining and enrichment in a shorter time-should the plan so require.

[Question] One of the most frequent criticisms aimed at the accord is that it pays more attention to the industrial sector, to the detriment of scientific research. Is this true?

[Answer] I see this more as praise than criticism. In fact, the Brazilian nuclear plan is basically industrial, and we see no reason to be concerned over this. On the contrary, it will allow us to carry out immediately useful projects, with clearcut objectives and a fixed schedule.

The transference of technology involves all stages of nuclear industry with a breadth and depth never attained before in other, even conventional, fields. We are training ourselves in each and every one of the phases of nuclear development, both in design and in the basic tasks--where we delve into the reasons for everything, both at the design and the implementation stage of every project. This allows us to know how to do these things. This effort will allow us, providing we have enough inventiveness and creativity, to improve on the solutions we have received from abroad, and even be able to implement technical solutions of our own in due time.

[Question] Your answer does not clarify the doubts enough. Even if Brazil were to become fully acquainted with current technology, would it not lose track of future developments?

[Answer] Your reasoning would be correct if Brazil were to remain totally ignorant of these new developments. In fact, in NUCLEBRAS we have groups of experts who follow up the development of new reactors, and, in the case of the fast-breeder reactor, we have an agreement with the Karlsruhe Center of Nuclear Technology. We are closely following everything that is being done. In addition to the effort of bringing in current technology, there is a parallel effort of keeping up to date.

We cannot pretend to lead the research and development of vanguard technology. It is obvious that to do so we lack the human and financial resources. We must concentrate our resources on acquiring current technology. It would be reckless and even unrealistic to believe that Brazil, which does not have enough background in the organized research and development of its own resources, even to solve essentially national problems, could lead the world in nuclear research in the field of fast-breeder reactors, for example.

We must have confidence in Brazil, in our capabilities to carry out projects, but without boastful exaggerations which lack realism, without which one gets involved in rhetoric without achieving anything worthwhile.

[Question] But doesn't all this mean that once the current type of reactor reaches its natural stage of obsolescence Brazil will have to begin all over again, importing more modern technology?

[Answer] There is no such thing as a "natural stage of obsolescence" in nuclear technology. There is obsolescence of equipment. The field in which this obsolescence occurs with dramatic intensity is computation, where absolutely everything is changed every 5 years. In nuclear industry the development is considerably slower.

The fact that a new type of reactor is developed does not mean that the previous types are automatically eliminated from use. These reactors are used up to the end of their useful life. The strategy used by all developed countries provides for the combined use of the current LWR type (enriched uranium and light water) with the future type of fast-breeder reactor. The latter will greatly depend on the current thermal reactors which will produce the initial plutonium which the breeders require for operation.

[Question] That is why Brazil does not want to give up recycling?

[Answer] Of course it does not want to give it up. To give up recycling means to have no plutonium which is also ours, right? It would be like giving up our water, the energy of our rivers, our oil, or our uranium. Plutonium is a fuel which will be produced in Brazil, in our country. There is no reason to give it up.

[Question] There have been some reports that to use uranium for power production is unfeasible because international reserves are considerably lower than initial estimates indicated. In fact, uranium is scheduled to run out before oil. What do you have to say to this?

[Answer] As to uranium reserves there are two trends of thought; in fact there are many more, but we are only concerned about these two conflicting ones. One of them is that it is not worth developing nuclear energy because uranium will run out very soon, long before oil; the other is that there is a lot of uranium, that reserves are practically inexhaustible, thus there is no need to think about recycling. The latter is the position of the United States, which is saying that there are reasons against recycling since it is very expensive and dangerous and since there is a lot of uranium. Our position is half-way in-between.

We believe that there is a lot of uranium in the world. The important thing, however, is that we know there is uranium in Brazil and that it will be more than enough to feed the current generation of reactors and to provide for the next generation of reactors. This second generation is almost a perpetual motion machine in terms of fuel, because it will generate more fuel than it will consume, since the reactors will be self-recycling. The way I see it, the solution to the problem is guaranteed by the closing of the cycle, through the recycling and use of recycled plutonium.

[Question] One of the most common criticisms is that the choosing of the current line of reactors diverted resources from research in the field of thorium, a mineral which--unlike uranium--Brazil has in great quantities. Is this a valid criticism?

[Answer] Brazil has never made significant efforts in the field of thorium prospecting and research, nor in the field of research and development of techniques to use this mineral as nuclear fuel and of reactors capable of using it.

There was just a group in Belo Horizonte called the thorium group, which presented a project to build a natural-uranium reactor by means of national technology, followed by a reactor fed by plutonium, obtained from the first reactor, which would turn thorium into U-233 to be used at a third stage.

It was obvious that this course was too long and difficult, because we would have to do on our own things that are still being studied by more advanced countries. We must not forget that the research which is underway abroad in the field of thorium reactors is based on the initial utilization of highly enriched uranium, because thorium is not a fissionable material. There is no reason to concentrate on thorium because we have uranium in significant quantities.

[Question] How significant?

[Answer] The nuclear plan reached its peak in 1977 because of the results obtained from uranium prospecting and research, which increased six times the reserves known in 1974 when NUCLEBRAS was created. This makes Brazil one of the 10 richest countries in uranium in the world. Current Brazilian reserves are 70,000 tons, and they are enough to supply uranium concentrate to 10 plants of the Angra II type for the 30 years of useful life of each one of these plants.

[Question] Are the risks to environment and security of the plants duly taken into account and provided for?

[Answer] I believe that Brazilian security measures are as strict as those implemented in the United States and Europe. If there are differences, they are in our favor: lower population rate and a large territory. Due to its nature, should there be any problems, they would be less in Brazil than in those countries like Japan, France and the FRG, which are highly populated. However, these nations are not afraid to develop their nuclear plans. Why should Brazil be afraid of it? Brazil is as large as all Europe put together.

[Question] I do not believe there has been no fear. There have been demonstrations, movements which even managed to halt nuclear projects, isn't that true?

[Answer] These are demonstrations of little significance. They are noisy, but not significant enough to represent the will of the people. I can point out an example in Australia just now. It is a pity that Brazilian newspapers have expressed some interest in Australian elections only when it seemed that they would constitute a plebiscite against nuclear energy. Since the party which was struggling against the nuclear program was defeated the newspapers have ceased to discuss the matter. The enemies of nuclear energy were defeated overwhelmingly, by more than 2 to 1.

There are no safety problems. The possibilities are truly remote, very remote. The Americans are very careful in safety matters and following the guidelines of professor Rasmussen (the Rasmussen Report) they have created a group made up of 60 physicists and engineers, who worked 2 years evaluating the risks involved in nuclear plants. It is the industry which has the best safety record. It is considerably the least polluting. It is obvious that it is less polluting because it deals with highly repressed energy in very small volumes. One ton of uranium is equivalent to 10,000 tons of oil or 15,000 tons of coal.

The plants are built in such a way that even if the most improbable possibility of accident were to come true, it would remain contained. That is what all those special protection measures are for: the special-steel shieldings, the reinforced concrete shields, all of which are inside a steel sphere, such as the one CONFAB [National Brazilian Steel Forging Company] is building. This sphere is capable of withstanding the direct impact of a plane. Even if the worst possible accident were to happen, that is a leak in the cooling system, there are automatic control systems: The reactor is disconnected and the reaction dampened. A nuclear plant is not an atomic bomb. It does not blow up.

[Question] What is the status of the project for uranium enrichment by means of jet nozzle, which has been considered expensive, unfeasible, and charged with being, should it prove to be unfeasible after all, harmful to Brazil, which would lose the money invested in the research?

[Answer] This is a typical example of the incoherence of the critics. On one hand they are claiming that Brazil is importing ready-made solutions. Whenever there is a concrete situation, such as this, in which we are part of a research program, they also criticize it. What our critics need is to agree on what they want. In every research there is a calculated risk. There is technology available which will allow Brazil to build a uranium enrichment plant and we are working in Germany to improve the process and make it competitive with others available on the international market.

As to their saying that this would be detrimental to Brazil alone while the profits will go to Germany alone: If we lose, so do they; if we win, they will profit by it as well. We are working with the Germans under very equitable conditions. The resulting patent will be Brazilian and German, half and half, and the resulting profit will be shared fifty-fifty. With the already available technology we will have our plant. Now, what we want is to improve this technology to make it internationally competitive.

[Question] And what about the claims that the nuclear plan has neglected local scientists?

[Answer] Look, the nuclear plan is mainly an industrial plan. But it is not true that it has neglected the scientists. We have many scientists on NUCLEBRAS' staff: physicists, chemists, mathematicians. Is it possible that only those who are not working in the official plan can be considered scientists?

BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENT WITH PRC ANNOUNCED

PY101255Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 10 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Itamaraty has announced the text of the agreement signed between Brazil and the PRC.

Through the document signed on Saturday, the two countries agree to develop efforts and to adopt measures necessary to promote and expand bilateral trade. The two countries will make equal concessions for the purpose of facilitating import and exports of manufactured products, by both countries.

FOREIGN MINISTRY STUDIES POSSIBLE ARGENTINE REJECTION ON BEAGLE

PY101251Y Santiago Chile Radio Minería Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 10 Jan 78 PY

[Excerpt] Santiago--The Chilean Foreign Ministry is studying the situation of the Beagle Channel issue with Argentina after reports from Buenos Aires which state that the Argentine Government will reject the UK decision.

A high-ranking Chilean Foreign Ministry source has stated that Chile will continue to abide by the 1881 treaty which was signed between the two countries. This treaty assigned to Chile all the islands south of the Beagle Channel up to Cape Horn. This is the thesis which was ratified by the British award on 2 May 1977.

REPORT ON SOCIALIST PARTY'S PROGRAM

AU091423Y East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 4 Jan 78 p 6 AU

[ADN report: "Chilean Socialist Party Emphasizes Struggle for Front of All Antifascists"]

[Text] Berlin (ADN)--The Chilean Socialist Party has stressed its unbreakable determination to struggle for the unity of all antifascist and democratic forces as well as for the strengthening of the Chilean unity front movement, Popular Unity. In a declaration disseminated in Berlin it is revealed that a top-level meeting chaired by Party Secretary General Carlos Altamirano was held in November 1977. The meeting also was attended by representatives of the party leadership waging an underground struggle in Chile.

The declaration emphasizes that it is the aim of all party members in Chile and abroad to struggle incessantly to overthrow the fascist dictatorship. The Socialist Party stresses among other things how important agreement between socialist and communists is for the establishment of a broad antifascist coalition. The declaration states, moreover, that under the given circumstances in Chile, the political mass struggle must take precedence, although the legitimacy of all forms of struggle against the regime is stressed.

The Chilean Socialist Party's statement emphasizes the decisive role the socialist countries play in supporting the struggle to restore democracy and the Chilean people's rights, as well as preserve peace and the people's right to self-determination. The meeting expressed the view that it is necessary to wage incessantly the ideological and political struggle, especially against the ultra-leftist deviations and the opportunist trends. All this, it says, is absolutely essential for disciplined, responsible and joint action by the party. The Socialist Party stresses the party's national and revolutionary character, emphasizing that the ideas of Marx, Engels and Lenin are the party's foundation. Today it is necessary to develop the antifascist and anti-imperialist struggle and channel it into a program of transition to socialism. The Socialist Party affirms the necessity for still better coordinating activities in Chile and abroad, and stresses that the support for the complex struggle in Chile is the main task of party members living abroad.

PRESIDENT SIDES WITH PANAMA ON CANAL ISSUE

PAL10312Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0209 GMT 11 Jan 78 PA

[By Guillermo Tribin Piedrahita]

[Text] Bogota, 10 Jan (EFE)--The Colombian Government will not "accept changes" in the treaty signed between Panama and the United States for the recovery of the canal by Panama and will continue giving it its "full support." A Colombian Foreign Ministry spokesman, in exclusive statements to EFE tonight, said that the position of the Alfonso Lopez Michelsen government is "not negotiable" and therefore its loyalty with "the Panamanian struggle remains unchanged."

Last night Republican leader Howard Baker, in a brief visit to Bogota said that he will propose a "fundamental reform" to incorporate two amendments into the treaty--the right of the United States to defend the strategic waterway and the elimination of a clause for the construction of a sea-level canal. Baker, who heads a Senate group, met with the Colombian president and told him of his decision but, according to Foreign Ministry sources, Lopez Michelsen at the same time rejected, in Colombia's name, the possibility of amendments to the Carter-Torrijos treaty.

The sources told EFE that Lopez Michelsen went even further in his comments to the Senate group: His country, Colombia, will again become a champion to demand respect for Panama's rights and is prepared to request Latin America's cooperation.

In Colombia's opinion, if the presidential summit held in Bogota from 5 to 7 August 1977 did not accept the U.S. proposal to include a sea-level canal construction clause in the treaty, it is not possible to accept changes now. "Latin America waged a strong and decisive struggle beside Panama for the just recovery of the canal and is not now prepared to cede to the Carter administration's political problems." According to what was revealed here, the Colombian Government considers that those "political problems must be solved by the U.S. President, regardless of any consideration or noncompliance with the treaties signed."

It was said that Colombia will, in view of the drawn-out procedure which the U.S. Congress has accorded to ratification of the treaties, ask Venezuela, Mexico, Costa Rica, Jamaica and Panama to continue forming a "pressure group" together with the other Latin American countries to demand the fulfillment of the treaties. President Lopez Michelsen himself has, according to reports, told the U.S. senators that noncompliance with the commitments made by the United States to Panama and Latin America could cause problems, which "in no case will be caused by Panama or the countries which support it."

PRESIDENT CRITICIZED FOR POLITICAL PARTIALITY

PAL01203Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2036 GMT 9 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 9 Jan (EFE)--President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen was harshly criticized today by former presidents Carlos Lleras Restrepo and Misael Pastrana Borrero for what they called indelicacies and not maintaining political neutrality.

Lleras Restrepo, like Lopez Michelsen a member of the Liberal Party, vigorously replied to the "good and bad" label Lopez Michelsen has used to describe some political leaders. Lleras said that it is not a question of distinguishing between one or the other, "but of fighting against practices to which the government cannot close its eyes." He labeled the president's statements as "distractive sophism." Lleras Restrepo added that "unless certain vices are corrected" (political patronage, lack of neutrality, etc), the Liberal Party will be heading for collapse.

The other Liberal precandidate, Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala, has been accused of being a kind of "leader" of the so-called "political patronage" system. Lleras has said that Turbay enjoys the government's favors.

Former Conservative President Pastrana Borrero labeled the 26 February elections as "decisive for the country." He said that Colombia is desperate and undecieved "by the promises of the government, which is nearing the end of its term, and by its indelicacies." Pastrana said that what he called indelicacies by the president "are defended by a minority," pointing out that Colombia "needs fresh air, a sensation of optimism in its future and renewed confidence in its rulers, which has been lost."

BOGOTA POLICE SMASH URBAN GUERRILLA CELL

PA110438Y Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 2330 GMT 10 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpts] Bogota--An urban guerrilla cell of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia Fourth Front was smashed today by F-2 agents in an operation in northwestern Bogota. The leader of the organization, N.L. Bustos, alias [name indistinct], was captured in the raid and is charged with participating in several raids on police patrols in Boyaca Department and Bogota.

Another nine persons were arrested in the raid and a large number of pistols, revolvers and dynamite was confiscated. The operation consisted of a raid on a [word indistinct] home at 6583 La Estrada Suburb, 59th Avenue, where the police were met with gunfire. Seven persons were captured and another three, who had managed to escape, were captured at 5191 59th Avenue. There are unconfirmed reports that several of the persons captured were wounded, but official sources would not confirm this.

N.L. Bustos, alias [name indistinct], was the individual who was going to replace the famous Efraim Gonzalez and Humberto Ariza Ariza, alias The Goose, who is in custody in La Picota jail. The individuals arrested will be turned over to a penal military instruction judge, who will be appointed in the next few hours. The prisoners are now being interrogated by F-2 agents.

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADOR TO BULGARIA--The government today announced the appointment of Alvaro Perez Vives as the new Colombian ambassador to the People's Republic of Bulgaria. [Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Jan 78 PA]

MILITARY APPOINTMENT--Bucaramanga--Brig Gen Rafael (?Samudio) Molina was sworn in today as the new commander of the 5th Brigade, which is headquartered in Bucaramanga. [Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Jan 78 PA]

COST OF LIVING INCREASE--The Colombian Government has confirmed its own prediction of a cost-of-living increase of less than 30 percent in 1977. Statistics show an increase of 27.5 percent for white-collar workers and 29.3 percent for laborers. The National Statistics Department attributed the figure to the low increases registered in December, which amounted to 6.0 percent for white-collar workers and 0.4 percent for laborers. [Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 2 Jan 78 PA]

PRESIDENT, MAGISTRATES OF SUPREME COURT REPLACED

PA102027Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1300 GMT 10 Jan 78 PA

[Text] During the last few hours the president and 15 magistrates of the Supreme Court were sworn in following the Supreme Court's reorganization on Friday by means of a supreme decree. During the ceremony, which was held at the Government Palace, President of the Supreme Council Vice Adm Alfredo Poveda Burbano stated:

[Begin recording] Messrs Drs Gonzalo Karolys Martinez, Gustavo Chavez (Estella), (Gonzalo Zambrano Palacio, Carlos Anibal Jaramillo Andrade, Napoleon (Arete Tobin), Eduardo Holguin Albornoz, Francisco Sevilla Montalvo, Guillermo Espinosa Vega, Marco Antonio Torres Guzman, Eduardo Hurtado Larrea, Anibal Guzman Lara, Galo (Galarta) Paz, Luis Heredia Moreno and Gonzalo Gallo Subia, members of the Supreme Court of Justice:

Do you promise on your honor as Ecuadoreans to totally fulfill the high mission that the fatherland, through the national government, has put under your responsibility? If so, may the fatherland repay you. If not, may the fatherland so demand it from you.

In the city of Quito on the 9th day of January, 1978, before the presence of Vice Adm Alfredo Poveda Burbano. [recording fades out]. [end recording]

After the ceremony there were embraces of congratulations and joy but there was also a certain amount of displeasure among those who were replaced in the Supreme Court and those who consider the reorganization of that high tribunal and the judiciary branch as a political measure that is unjustified.

Among the dissatisfied--as could be expected--was Dr Cesar Durango, who until last Friday was the president of the Supreme Court. Durango termed the reorganization of the judiciary branch as interference by the regime and an attempt against the stability of judges and officials.

[Durango--begin recording] Among other guarantees needed for the proper administration of justice is independence. All the other requirements needed for the rightful administration of justice must also be guaranteed. The independence of the judiciary is an indispensable stability of judges and magistrates. Only continuation of judges in their activities will give them the necessary expertise so that rulings may represent a true understanding of the law. Therefore, the independence of the judiciary is an indispensable prerequisite for the administration of justice.

[Question] How then would you describe the measure taken by the government about which the public already knows?

[Answer] This government measure undoubtedly implies interference in the administration of justice and, furthermore, in the stability needed by the judges and other officials of the judiciary. [end recording]

In the opinion of Francisco Salazar, national deputy director of the Ecuadorean Conservative Party, a total change in the judiciary implies its surrender as the unconditional servant of the military dictatorship.

[Salazar--begin recording] In a direct way there is most certainly a political implication, because the reorganization of the judiciary at this stage signifies the total and unconditional delivery to the present dictatorial regime of judiciary duties that may not be reassigned even as a consequence of the presidential election slated for July of this year; that is, the present government is trying to place its own people in the judiciary branch so that they will control everything that will occur after 15 January.

It is very clear that both constitutional drafts would empower the Supreme Court of Justice to make appointments that should be made by the National Congress, some in the Chamber of Representatives and some in the other chamber.

Since the present dictatorship does not intend to call congressional elections and since whoever is elected president of the republic--if this ever takes place, of course--in July may not be able to do it immediately, the present Supreme Court, organized according to the whims of the dictators, will proceed to make appointments at all levels, from the attorney general and comptroller general to members of various organizations--appointments that may only be made by the National Congress in accordance with the political constitution.

It is regrettable, for example, that a lawyer who was the greatest collaborator of the Rodriguez dictatorship was appointed president of the Supreme Court of Justice. It can be easily seen that in this nation the present members of the Supreme Government Council still obey the orders of Rodriguez and do not have the personalities needed to even appoint officials on their own. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Rodrigo Borja, presidential candidate for the Democratic Left, criticized the reorganization at the end of the present military regime.

[Borja--begin recording] In all civilized countries the judiciary branch is surrounded by the most absolute dignity and independence in the exercise of its duties. This has been a tradition in Ecuador, be there a constitutional or dictatorial regime. Even the de facto regimes in our country have respected the independence of the judiciary branch because it is one of the fundamental prerequisites for the judiciary branch to exercise its duties without pressure.

Therefore, the Democratic Left and myself, personally, censure this reorganization of the judiciary branch in the final days of a regime that is about to end. We think that this makes no sense at all and, therefore, that there has been an attempt in Ecuador against the independence that should be enjoyed by the branch that administers justice. This independence should be as great with regard to both the political power and the economic power of the country. Justice should be impartial and blind so as not to allow the penetration of any kind of external influence.

Obviously, with this reorganization the highest magistrates and judges have been placed under the authority of an illegal government. Some of the members of the Supreme Court who have already been appointed through decree have already served in various positions in the previous [word indistinct] dictatorship. It is therefore evident that they are not independent with regard to the government which today rules the nation.

[Question] How would you term the measures taken by the government?

[Answer] As imprudent, improper and illegal. [end recording]

In the face of so many accusations, opinions and criticism, the person whom the regime chose as president of the Supreme Court, Dr Gonzalo Karolys, justified the reorganization of the judiciary branch, arguing that the government's intent is to achieve greater effectiveness in the administration of justice.

[Karolys--begin recording] I am not unaware of the many comments and rumors across the land which consider this reorganization as totally political, even predicting a political future that in reality has never been nor is now in the minds of the supreme chiefs of the government. As the nation well knows, the government seeks a legal restructuring in full compliance with the reorganization plan. Therefore, it has no political overtones. In view of the times through which the nation is passing--8 days away from the referendum--I can see that there would be basis for comments or beliefs to the effect that politics were behind the reorganization of the Supreme Court. But I wish to say that it is not so. It is only a reorganization which the Supreme Government Council has deemed necessary for the purpose of achieving a form of justice that is more efficient, more in line with our nature and, above all, so that justice will reach the most forsaken corners of the nation.

[Question] Will you basically make efforts to keep the judiciary branch independent from the executive?

[Answer] Of course, not only because of its nature but because it is thus [word indistinct]. The judiciary branch, as it is known, is one of the powers of the state, completely and totally independent of the executive branch. The present judiciary law, which was issued by the government of the armed forces in 1974, [word indistinct], guarantees and maintains the [word indistinct].

Therefore, as president of the judiciary branch of the republic, I will maintain the respect it deserves as one of the powers of the state.

[Question] Aside from all bonds of friendship with the members of the [question not completed].

[Answer] Of course I am honored by the friendship of the members of the Supreme Government Council--a friendship that has existed for some years. We worked together in the earlier stages of the government of the armed forces. There is a spiritual bond between us. We share the same thoughts of serving the nation, of loyalty toward the democratic principles. This has influenced my acceptance of this grave responsibility, with the sincere intention of helping the republic to achieve a judicial organization capable of meting out justice without considerations of any kind. [end recording]

And after this report, confusion [as heard] seems to be unfavorable to the reorganization of justice just as the nation is passing through a process of returning to a de jure regime.

19 DETAINED FOR ATTEMPTING TO REVIVE ILLEGAL GROUPS

PY061650Y Asuncion HOY in Spanish 6 Jan 78 p 28 PY

[Text] Nineteen persons, prosecuted under Law No 209 on defense of public peace and the freedom of persons, will continue in confinement in Emboscada Penitentiary, since an indictment has been drawn up to investigate and verify accusations against them. Their detention has been confirmed and it has been decided that a hearing will take place after the court vacations. The decision was made by criminal Judge Eernabe Valdez Martinez, acting during the vacations.

The 19 indicted persons were detained 17 December 1977 at about 1330 while participating in a meeting, allegedly of a labor union nature, held in the philosophy school of the Salesian Fathers in Ypacarai District.

It has been reported that the investigations department learned that a group of suspicious persons had gathered there. A special brigade went there and verified that this was true. It was found that the persons gathered there did not belong to the seminary. It was reported that the site had been reserved on behalf of the Metalworkers Union of the San Antonio Workshop, located on Eusebio Ayala Avenue between Pariri and Amancio Gonzalez Streets [in Asuncion].

The police report says that the main purpose of the meeting was to organize the agrarian campesino leagues and rural cooperatives, to revive labor organizations which are not members of the Paraguayan Workers Federation[CPT], and to revive the Political Military Organization [OPM]. The police brigade broke into the philosophy school a few minutes before the second part of the meeting was to begin and detained everyone present.

Those indicted are Emilio Patricio Valenti Natale, Rodolfo Efren Romero Garcete, Florencio Riveros Vazquez, Emigdio Colman Nunez, Victorino Centurion Ramoa, Quirino Hermosa Valdez, Fulgencio Bareiro Rodas, Luis Fermin Ferreira, Marcial Britos, Enrique Cardenas Acosta, Teodoro Lopez Ortiz, Adriano Otazo, Pedro Ferreira, Severo Delgado Rodriguez, Feliciano Verdun, Valentin Almada, Bernardo Fernandez, Andres Centurion and Zacarias Escobar.

BRIEFS

NEW FOREIGN RELATIONS OFFICIAL--Francisco Barreiro Maffiodo, current Paraguayan representative to the United Nations, has been appointed new foreign relations under-secretary by a government resolution promulgated yesterday. [Asuncion HOY in Spanish 5 Jan 78 p 11 PY]

CEPEX REPORTS INCREASE--The Export Promotion Center [CEPEX] reported exports of more than \$270 million this year. This represents an increase of 50 percent over last year. [Asuncion HOY in Spanish 29 Dec 77 p 20 PY]

REACTION TO MORALES BERMUDEZ STATEMENTS ON CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

UNO Rejects Statements

PA110158Y Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 4 Jan 78 p 5 PA

[Communique issued by the National Odrista Union on 3 January, 1978]

[Text] The National Odrista Union [UNO], whose participation in the forthcoming electoral process will be decided by the national convention that has been convened to analyze the implications of the mistaken statements of the president of the armed forces revolutionary government during the 30 December news conference, states the following:

1. The Peruvian people are going to draft the new political constitution through their representatives elected in a free demonstration of the popular will. Since sovereignty rests in the people and not in the armed forces, the constitution that is approved must be respected by the armed forces, in accordance with Article 213 of the current constitution.

2. The statements of the president of the revolutionary government contradict Article 6 of Decree Law 21995, which reads:

"Article 6: The constituent mandate is unrenounceable and the representatives elected in accordance with this decree law are inviolable in the exercise of their functions and cannot be denounced or imprisoned without previous authorization of the constituent assembly except in the case of a flagrant crime. They will not be responsible before any court or authority for the votes cast or the opinions expressed in the assembly."

The aforementioned article of the decree law establishes that the future representatives of the people will not be subject to an obligatory mandate. Since the decree law is signed by the president of the revolutionary government, with the approval of the Council of Ministers, and since it is a legislative act jointly issued with the members of the revolutionary board, that is, by the general commanders of the army, navy and air force, it is sufficient guarantee that the armed forces will respect the constitution that the people approve through their legitimate representatives, whatever its content, and which will undoubtedly express the majority will of the assembly.

3. It is fitting to recall the statements made by Interior Minister Gen Luis Cisneros Vizquerra to newsmen and which were published in the official newspaper EL PERUANO on 19 November 1977. In answer to a question on his opinion on the law of elections for the constituent assembly, he said: "My opinion has already been expressed by my signature on the law. I sincerely believe that the law of elections for the constituent assembly is the best proof that the government is determined to keep its word on the transfer of power to a constitutional government. The law is a clear demonstration of the broad freedom in which the government wants the process of the transfer of power to take place. We believe that the granting of the vote to citizens over 18 proves that the government has confidence that our young people are mature and aware of their responsibility. We also believe that the fact that government representatives were not appointed to the assembly and the fact that the assembly is composed of persons elected through a universal, direct and secret vote clearly show that the government does not have any intention of manipulating the constituent assembly and that it is firmly convinced that the great structural changes that have taken place in the country form part of the conscience of the great majority of the citizens."

4. The UNO has good hopes that the armed forces will honorably keep their word on the transfer of power--without any reservation--to a constitutional government and that they will respect the decision of the constituent assembly which will be the legitimate holder of the national sovereignty and will express the people's will in their constitution.

5. Therefore, the UNO, faithful to its slogan--actions and not words--will remain alert for a clarification of this matter in order to decide its participation in the so-called constituent assembly because it does not want to be a participant in an entity which is subjugated, threatened and dependent on the decisions of the revolutionary government.

Lima, 3 January 1978.

[Signed] Dr Raul Beraun Schreiber, UNO secretary general.
Identification Card No. 2699878.

Revolutionary Union Party Comment

PA110056Y Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 5 Jan 78 p 4 PA

[Declaration issued on 3 January, 1978, by the National Executive Committee of the Revolutionary Union Party]

[Text] At a meeting held at its offices on 986 San Martin Square, the National Executive Committee of the Revolutionary Union Party [PUR] unanimously decided to issue the following declaration:

1. PUR expresses its surprise at the statements made by President Francisco Morales Bermudez during the news conference held at Government Palace on 30 December, 1977, in connection with the election of the constituent assembly because it feels that the statements do not reflect the armed forces government's vaunted spirit of unity and democratic principles.
2. PUR makes it know that the failure to respect the people's will as freely expressed at the polls following 10 years of de facto government would be a severe blow to civility of unforeseeable consequences.
3. It is preposterous not to understand that the country's free citizens are resolved not to accept tutelages of any kind and that they will demand that the armed forces transfer power without hindering the people's right to govern the country with all of their prerogatives.
4. The attempt to establish a constituent assembly with a specific mission and under threat of dissolution is absolutely contrary to the most elementary democratic principles and human rights.

Lima, 3 January, 1978. On behalf of the National Executive Committee, Alejandro D. Mendoza, PUR national secretary general.

Socialist Party Rejects Statements

PA101940Y Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 5 Jan 78 p 4 PA

[Political declaration issued by the Peruvian Socialist Party on 3 January in Lima]

[Text] The political statements the chief of state made during a news conference with foreign and local newsmen in connection with the constituent assembly have prompted the political parties to immediately express their criticism and opinions.

The Peruvian Socialist Party states the following in this regard:

1. The country was pleased to hear of the armed forces' decision to turn over power to civilians after having operated as a de facto government for almost a decade. If this decision is to be of real democratic value it must entail a broad opening, that is, it must open the door to power to politically organized popular groups and not entail a transfer to the oligarchic sectors which are dependent on the interests of monopolistic foreign enterprises.
2. The constituent power--which is the people's sovereign power--must be free to act when it meets in a constituent assembly to draft a constitution, which is a people's pact embodying the organization and institutions under which one wishes to live.
3. Therefore, the citizens were surprised to hear and immediately rejected the statement attributed to the chief of state, who is the spokesman for and political head of the country's armed forces. The statement, that the assembly will be dissolved if it does not include in the constitution the reforms advocated by him, reforms which are the essence and justification for his stay in power, has not been denied.
4. We feel that many of the sectors represented in the constituent assembly possibly agree with the reforms, but the alternative regarding the existence or dissolution of the assembly falls outside institutional and democratic rules.
5. If an attitude of this nature is maintained as the political expression of the armed forces during their stay in power it would destroy our people's moral strength, making them indifferent to their own problems and the nation's interests to a point where it would be preferable to call off this totalitarian show until such a time as the people, through their own capabilities and determination, are able to establish an institutional, democratic and free regime.

Lima, 3 January, 1978

[signed] The National Executive Committee of the Peruvian Socialist Party

MSD Criticism

PA101631Y Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 4 Jan 78 p 5 PA

[Text of communique issued by the Social Democratic Movement in Lima on 3 January, 1978]

[Text] The Social Democratic Movement [MSD] protests the statements of the president of the republic to the effect that the military government "would dissolve" the constituent assembly and "would continue" in power indefinitely if the assembly does not "reaffirm" the structural reforms. The MSD, along with most of the people and political parties, is in favor of maintaining and perfecting the 1968-75 structural reforms. But as a democratic political organization it cannot allow the future constituent assembly to act under a threat of dissolution and to be subjected to an imperative command. This would invalidate all its work, bringing serious harm to Peru. We also protest the chief of state's statement to the effect that "the transfer will not be of power but of government." In view of this, the MSD reiterates that in any democratic society military power should be subordinated to the civilian power elected by the people.

Lima, 3 January, 1978 [signed] For the MSD, Ismael Frias, L.E. 4159396

ELECTION COURT SETTING GUIDELINES FOR ELECTIONS

PY101403Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 10 Jan 78 PY

[Text] The National Election Court [Jurado nacional de elecciones] will determine in February the type of forms and (?ballots) which will be required for the 4 June elections. The members of the court are at present holding successive meetings to agree on [word indistinct].

Furthermore, the National Election Court reported again today that the deadline for the inscription of political parties, independent organizations and alliances which wish to participate in the 4 June closes on 4 February.

The election court reported that only the Popular Action Party [AP] has submitted its registration form. It was reported that AP has registered with [words indistinct] thus surpassing the 40,000 signatures required for this purpose.

PRESIDENT'S INTERVENTION HALTS HEALTH WORKERS' STRIKE

PA092315Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1818 GMT 9 Jan 78 PA

[By Raul H. Riutor]

[Text] Lima, 9 Jan (LATIN)--About 30,000 Health Ministry workers today interrupted the strike begun on 12 December after President Francisco Morales Bermudez personally intervened. On Thursday Morales Bermudez sent them a handwritten message in which he called the strikers "dear brothers." He also referred to the "great difficulties" experienced by Peru and asked them for "trust and understanding."

The acting secretary general of the sector's National Confederation of Workers, Benjamin Leon, said the strike has been lifted until the end of the month. "We will allow a prudent length of time to see if the offers of three subrogates [subrogados] and the increases in the new salary law made to us are carried through," Benjamin Leon said.

Fortunata Vasquez de Tello, another union leader, said that the workers received an increase of 1,800 soles monthly (about \$14), a 10-percent payment for health benefits and stability for contract workers. Benjamin Leon noted that the strikers had asked for a 3,600-sol increase.

About 150 hospitals, medical centers and clinics were affected by the strike, as were administrative offices and the ministry itself. Doctors, nurses and aides, however, provided limited service. The strikers will now continue talks with the new health minister, Maj Gen Oscar Davila Zumaeta, to find a solution to the problems pending since February.

Mario Castro, the workers' defense secretary, said he understood that the military authorities will not take any repressive measures because of the 4-week strike. In the past, the military declared strikes illegal and arrested or deported leaders and permitted dismissals.

The text of Morales Bermudez' message today appeared on the front page of the government newspaper, EL PERUANO, which is somewhat unprecedented.

In the past few days I have been very concerned about you. I know that you have needs, and I wish I could completely satisfy them, Morales Bermudez said. He added that despite our great difficulties, we have to allot many millions [soles] to prevent the prices on milk, bread and oil from going up. As you know, prices on our products sold abroad are very low. The health minister will take you a proposal, which I tell you with utmost frankness is the most we can offer you.

The "great difficulties" cited by Morales Bermudez are in reference to present Peruvian foreign debt commitments and the lack of funds to continue some projects of the armed forces revolution.

Manuel Moreyra, who was a high official in the Central Reserve Bank for 15 years, said over television last night that Peru's economic crisis is a result of excessive foreign debts for nonproductive activities. He noted that between 1973 and 1976 this debt amounted to \$2.5 billion. He rejected claims that the economic and financial crisis, which is the worst in Peru's history, is exclusively attributable to the structural reforms made in the times of former president Juan Velasco Alvarado, who was replaced with Morales Bermudez in August of 1975, or to the world economic crisis.

He emphasized that the military government still has a chance to obtain good refinancing of the foreign debt--of which there are no exact official figures, although it is estimated that it ranges from \$5 to \$8 billion. He said that in the last case, Peru should ask for a moratorium, which would pose serious problems.

VELASCO ALVARADO'S TESTAMENT SAID TO BE BOGUS

PA051550Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0057 GMT 7 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 4 Jan (AFP)--Relatives and friends of the late former president Juan Velasco Alvarado have said that a political testament published yesterday by ABC, a local magazine, is "absolutely false," and "a political maneuver." According to the weekly, General Velasco, who died on 24 December, appointed a tetrarchy to replace him after his death headed by the retired general, Anibal Meza Cuadra, a minister of transport during his regime and a personal friend.

In answer to a question by AFP, Meza Cuadra denied "in all its parts and intentions" the existence of the document. He also said the signature appearing at the end of the public testament is false and is not like that of the former president in his last months of life. According to Meza Cuadra, "the signature is a forgery of General Velasco's signature when he was in good health."

The former minister added that the existence of a document of that kind would have been known to his relatives and closest friends and that "it would never have reached a magazine by mail, mysteriously, at midnight." He reaffirmed his conviction that "the testament published by ABC does not exist and was drawn up for political motives."

On his part, the general's brother-in-law, Luis Gonzalez Posadas, brother of the former president's widow, said the incident was "an act of infamy." His statements in the press today say that "the political testament is only a fictitious document."

FIVE OPEC MINISTERS TO MEET AT END OF JANUARY

PA101653Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 10 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Valentin Hernandez has announced that five OPEC ministers will meet at the end of January. He indicated that the meeting is being held in order to reach an agreement on the differences in prices for the heavy crudes of the Persian Gulf area. The minister said that the OPEC member countries which will attend this special meeting are Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait and Venezuela. He did not specify the exact date or site of the meeting.

BRITISH MINISTER ON VISIT TO VENEZUELA, CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

FLO62043Y Kingston Domestic Service in English 2030 GMT 6 Jan 78 FL

[Text] British Overseas Development Minister Judith Hart arrived in Venezuela (?today) to talk to government officials. Mrs Hart, who arrived from San Jose, Costa Rica, will discuss development assistance matters, particularly in the Caribbean context. From Venezuela, she will go to Guyana, Barbados and Jamaica to get a better understanding of the region's problems.

LEFTISTS REACT FAVORABLY TO MAS INVITATION TO TALKS

PA082022Y Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 28 Dec 77 p D-3 PA

[Excerpts] Leftist leaders hailed as very positive and healthy the letter sent by Movement to Socialism [MAS] Secretary General Pompeyo Marquez, inviting the People's Electoral Movement (MEP), the movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) and the Venezuelan Communist Party (PCV) to talks in search of unity above and beyond the various presidential candidacies launched by these parties.

MEP President and Senator Luis Beltran Prieto Figueroa, his party's presidential candidate, said MEP has always wanted to have cordial relations and unity to solve the country's problems.

He said: "Although the question has not been discussed by the party's leadership, I can say I am highly pleased at MAS' new attitude."

When asked if he would be willing to support joint lists for municipal councils and legislative assemblies, he said that this has been discussed by MEP but that he did not think that this was the tenor of Pompeyo Marquez' letter. "Anything which would contribute to easing differences and creating a feeling of cooperation and commitment in the progressive forces of the nation has our support and approval," he added.

Asked if MEP would be willing to back a single leftist candidate for the presidency, he answered: "That has not been proposed. An MAS is very clear in its letter when it says: 'Independently of the presidential candacies.' We proposed this before my nomination. Once nominated, I think it is not good for the nominees to accept any commitment which does not correspond to what they represent.

Prieto Figueroa does not believe that the MAS letter was issued because MAS may have a weak candidate but because "they were convinced that we were right" when we asked for the unity of popular forces as soon as President Perez arrived at Miraflores Palace in April of 1974.

"This does not discredit MAS, but rather reinforces leftist political forces," he noted.

When asked if this unity would hurt AD and COPEI, he said that the unity of those parties is not a phenomenon of the present time but the product of the great interests of capitalism and imperialism.

The senator from Margarita explained: "They may have their differences and squabbles like any married couple, but it does not go beyond that. I could not say if this unity proposed by MAS will hurt them, but I do know it is good for the country."

Jesus Faria, secretary general of the PCV, said of Pompeyo Marquez' letter to leftist parties: "We feel that it is a healthy agreement and we have always stressed the need to reach an agreement on common objectives. It is an important political development and justified the meeting of the PCV'S political bureau on 5 January to decide on our position at the meeting to which we have been invited."

Jesus Faria added that his party has never agreed with conflicts between anti-imperialistic democratic forces.

"The best proof of this is Hector Mujica's campaign. I do not think that there will be any problem in expanding the subject matter of the conversations," he said.

Faria cited as an example the elections for councilmen. With an agreement to support joint candidates more municipal councilmen would be elected, the struggle for the common good in various communities would be advanced, and administrative corruption would be fought more effectively, he said.

Although Vanguardia was not invited to the talks between leftist parties because the invitation was limited to parties which have already nominated presidential candidates, it supports MAS' proposal of improving relations between leftist parties and developing a common policy toward the most important problems affecting the popular masses.

Guillermo Garcia Ponce, Vanguardia's secretary general, said: "I consider Pompeyo Marquez' letter very positive, an initiative which can pave the way for other more important understandings which will progressively ease the strife among the Venezuelan left."

He added: "Of course we also believe that the solution to the nation's great problems cannot be found within the framework of what is traditionally called the left, without the participation of the nation's majority. But is a good start to reach a certain understanding among the most advanced forces, politically and socially."

Garcia Ponce disclosed that Vanguardia delegations recently held talks with presidential candidate Jose Vicente Rangel, the MAS national leadership, MIR leaders and the leftist groups, "Causa R" and "Ruptura," as well as with other independents.

At this end of the year when many people leave the capital, leaders of MIR, one of the three parties invited by MAS, could not be found in either their homes or offices.

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VENEZUELA

AD LEADER STRESSES GOOD RELATIONS WITH PEREZ

PA101648Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 10 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Democratic Action [AD] Secretary General Alejandro Izaguirre has said that the relations between AD and the government of President Carlos Andres Perez are excellent. In answer to a newsman's question, he said he was surprised that newsmen insist on asking about the relations between AD and the government.

[Izaguirre--begin recording] I really do not understand why newsmen always stress this question. How else can relations be between AD and an AD government? They must be normal and cordial, as they have been up to now. There are no reasons to suppose the opposite. [end recording]

AD is co-responsible for the actions of President Perez' government, Izaguirre said, adding that the actions of the government have been positive. [Izaguirre--begin recording] As we have repeatedly stated, AD is co-responsible for the actions of the Carlos Andres Perez administration. The seriousness and responsibility of AD is involved. Therefore, the relations between AD and that government are those of a ruling party and its government. [end recording]

SOCIALIST LEAGUE VIEWS UPCOMING LEFTWING MEETING

PA110338Y Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 10 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The Socialist League has forwarded a letter to presidential candidates Jose Vicente Rangel, Luis Beltran Prieto Figueroa, Hector Mujica and Americo Martin. The letter contains two key proposals for the meeting--suggested by the movement called the People Are Advancing [EPA]--that will be held by the Movement for Socialism [MAS] the Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR], the Communist Party of Venezuela [PCV] and the People's Electoral Movement [MEP]. The meeting will seek to establish a united approach to the upcoming election.

One of the proposals says that the meeting should not be limited to the four parties. The Socialist League feels that all the people's political organizations should have been invited to the meeting. The league says that the meeting of the four parties is a good idea and it would be even better if all the organizations participated on an equal basis. The league adds that the MAS promotion of the original EPA idea foresees a meeting of more parties, and this should not be overlooked.

The other proposal refers to the possibility that the MAS-MIR-PCV-MEP meeting should not only discuss basic points of agreement, but also the possibility of having a single candidate. The Socialist League points out that the nomination of a single candidate would unite a large segment of the population.

BRIEFS

CRIME PREVENTION DIRECTOR--Well-known jurist and criminologist Dr (Herman Reguera Errada) was sworn in today as new national director of crime prevention. He is also sectorial director of social defense of the Justice Ministry. [Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 30 Dec 77 PA]

COSTA RICA'S ODUBER ARRIVES FOR OFFICIAL VISIT

PA101908Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 10 Jan 78 PA

[Text] President Daniel Oduber arrived in Mexico at 1030 today accompanied by a 35-member delegation, including the economy and foreign ministers. The president will place a wreath at the heroes monument and later will meet with President Lopez-Portillo. Tomorrow, shortly before his departure from Mexico, the chief of state will release an official communique.

Following is a recording of the statements made by Presidents Oduber and Lopez-Portillo on Oduber's arrival at the Juarez International Airport. The first to speak was the Mexican president, who said: [begin recording]

Mr President of Costa Rica, Don Daniel Oduber: It is satisfying for the government and people of Mexico to have the opportunity to welcome you for a second time to our country and, on this occasion, to the capital city. We welcome you and your delegation. We are very pleased to welcome the Central American statesman who rules that great nation, Costa Rica, a gem of pride for Latin America. Important matters were already discussed by us during your previous visit. To continue a dialog is a privilege of friends, and to do so for the benefit of our two nations is our purpose.

Mr President Oduber, receive the warmest greetings from the people of Mexico who open their arms to you as evidence of the sincere friendship and fraternal bonds that unite us with Costa Rica, of which we are very proud. Thank you for your presence, Mr President. We expect great results from this meeting. Welcome. [applause] [end recording]

Now, we will hear President Oduber's reply to the Mexican chief of state's welcoming address: [begin recording]

Mr President of Mexico: To visit you, to be in your home, to again see you, the representative of the ethical values of Mexico before the entire Latin American community, is to come again, as we Costa Ricans have done for generations--even in the pre-Spanish era--in order to receive from you ideas, philosophies, programs and affection.

My people come before the Mexican people, in the person of their president, to express our thanks once more for the role you play in the formation of Costa Rica. Thank you, Mr President! Thank you, Mexico! [applause] [end recording]

CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT THIS MONTH

FL102145Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2115 GMT 10 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 10 Jan (ANSA-INFORMEX)--The republic's Foreign Secretariat has announced that Cuban foreign minister Isidoro Malmierca Peoli will arrive here on an official visit on 26 January next.

Mexican Foreign Secretary Santiago Roel visited Cuba in December 1977, at which time he concluded a number of economic, technical and cultural agreements with Havana's government which will be ratified during Malmierca's visit.

The two diplomats will also establish a Mexican-Cuban mixed commission whose responsibility will be to strengthen relations between the two countries.

TRADE TREATY LIST WITH EL SALVADOR APPROVED

PAL10406Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 11 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The Panamanian Government has sent an exchange note [nota de canje] to the Salvadoran Government to put the free trade and preferential exchange treaty into effect. The announcement was made by the subsecretary of international integration and economy, Rene Fuentes Castellano. The note was received and studied this afternoon by the mixed treaty commission. Thus, Panama is accepting the list of products approved during the sixth joint meeting of the permanent commission that was held in Panama on 2 December 1977.

ESCOBAR, CONGRESSMAN BAUMAN DISCUSS CANAL ISSUE

PAL10221Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 10 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Dr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt today reminded a U.S. congressman that on 9 January 1964 several Panamanian students died, not to ask the United States for money but to place a flag in the Canal Zone.

Dr Escobar told TV-2 that he held a 1-hour meeting with Congressman Robert Bauman to explain to him the neutrality provisions in the treaties, the Torrijos-Carter joint declaration and the differentiation we Panamanians make between our domestic problems and problems connected with the violation of neutrality.

According to Dr Escobar, Congressman Bauman asked him if an economic agreement might solve the existing problems. Dr Escobar had to explain to him that this is not a matter of money but rather one concerned with sovereignty and jurisdiction. Escobar said he told Congressman Robert Bauman that the economic aspects are important but do not constitute the fundamental issue.

Regarding neutrality, Escobar said during this morning's meeting that each of the two countries has the right to consider violations of neutrality unilaterally on the basis of the Torrijos-Carter agreement of understanding and on Article No 4 of the treaty, which is the reference point for this matter of neutrality.

Congressman Bauman is a representative for Maryland and a member of the Republican Party. His visit to Panama lasted 5 days. During the visit he was accompanied by (Ernie Corrado), administrative chief of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee.

ARNULFO ARIAS SENDS MESSAGE TO PANAMENIST CONVENTION

PAL01841Y Panama City Radio Hogar in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Jan 78 PA

[Message sent from Miami by former Panamanian President Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid to the Panamenist Party convention held on 8 January 1978 in Santiago, Veraguas Province--read by announcer]

[Text] Long and weary years of intensive, bloody and corrupt tyranny have been unable to subdue the spirit of democratic freedoms which through tradition and conviction form a part of the daily life of Panamanians.

The citizens' rights, brutally violated by the police dictatorship, and the constitutional legal order, violated in the gravest manner, are now enduring new attacks through arbitrary attempts to impose exotic doctrines that are foreign to our soil and to our way of life.

Infiltration by foreign governments and the communist ideological indoctrination fostered by the demagogic little dictator are reaching alarming levels. The citizens' general rejection at recent public demonstrations indicate that the hour of historical truth is drawing close for those who betrayed their oaths as servants of the state, the people and the fatherland.

Sprinkled with the blood of heroes are the fields where groups of valiant patriots gave their lives to defend individual freedoms. Filled with gloomy echoes are the prisons of Panama City and the other cities where unprecedented tortures resulted in false statements and even cost the lives of political prisoners.

Constructive anecdotes [as heard] are rife in the sister nations of our American which, for the first time in history, have seen the massive arrival of Panamanian exiles in their lands.

In honor of the sacred dead, those who endured torture and exile, those who suffered the drowning of their freedoms by a vile tyranny and who constitute the immense majority of the Panamanian people, we declare our firm determination to support all movements to restore public freedoms in Panama, the system of free enterprise and a true democratic order whose objective is to recognize the undeniable necessity of maintaining political freedom, social justice and economy. [word indistinct].

We legitimate leaders of the Panamanian electorate seek national redemption without oppressing chains and without treacherous coups d'etat that twist the desires for improvements of the community and the nationalist ambitions of the great national majorities.

The lack of popular support and the continuous instability are a reply to the machinery of intimidation and the reign of terror which has misruled our country since October 1968.

The gagging of public opinion cannot be eternal. Therefore, the awakening consciences of today are beating on the door of the usurping regime.

The hatred of classes unleashed everywhere with the force of bayonets will not prevail. Nothing enhances a people more than their vocation to serve their fatherland and nothing is more honorable than the decision to sacrifice one's commodities and properties and even life itself for the survival of freedom in the nation where one was born.

With the cooperation of the good units of the National Guard, the true political constitution of the nation will be imposed, as will the exercise of public freedoms and respect for the laws issued by the genuine representatives of the people.

We appeal to all the citizens of Panama so that, along with the live forces of the nation, the freedom of the Panamanian people will be restored.

After over 9 years of lawlessness and attacks on the nation's wealth, a financial, mental and spiritual bankruptcy of phenomenal magnitude has ensued. Our thoughts and our actions are channeled toward achieving the unity of all the institutions and groups of the isthmus without misgivings of any kind in the work of vindicating our republic. And in order to achieve this, there is no place in this redeeming enterprise for personal or sectarian considerations. The fatherland is on the brink of a chasm and only the solidarity and unselfish action of its children will save it from final ruin.

At this irreconcilable encounter between despotism and liberty there can be no concessions or commitments. In the face of the nation's great tragedy, all vacillation is tantamount to guilt, all resistance to unity is contrary to national interests and deserves our condemnation.

A grave responsibility befalls each and every Panamanian. Until we recover our status of dignity within the democratic world, each Panamanian citizen must be a soldier in the republic's defense lines.

Our mission is extraordinary in the concert of the world's nations and, therefore, we can assure that united, all we children of Panama will establish a new era of light, fraternity, peace and abundance.

[signed] Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid.

PANAMENISTS ISSUE SANTIAGO PROCLAMATION

PA110337Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 10 Jan 78 PA

[Text] After listening to their leaders' words and to a message sent from abroad by Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid, the Panamenist Party delegates who met last Sunday in Santiago released a document known as the Santiago Proclamation. The document, 4,000 words in length, discusses individual rights and what the party regards as conditions for the existence of a fully democratic system.

After discussing these ideas, the Santiago Proclamation adds that the Panamenist Party favors the establishment of a truly democratic regime in which differences are solved in accordance with the law or the appropriate bodies and where members of the opposition are not subjected to exile.

Referring to the current military regime's 9 years in power, the Panamenist proclamation states that after this time--during which no government other than the present one can be blamed for our country's ills--the Panamenist Party feels it is timely and advisable to point out to the nation the process of deterioration we have undergone so that this situation may be avoided in the future.

Nonetheless, the party implicitly acknowledges that an era of peace, harmony and fraternity can already be glimpsed, which absolutely all Panamanians have the right to enjoy.

FIRST POLITICAL ORGANIZATION CELL IN JUAN DIAZ

PA292014Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 29 Dec 77 pp 1,8-b PA

[Text] The first nucleus or political cell in the Juan Diaz Corregimiento was established on the afternoon of 24 December 1977 in the presence of the following members of the Provisional Committee for the Political Organization of the Panamanian Process [comite provisional pro organizacion politica del proceso panameno]: Joaquin Beitia, Eloy Mercado and Lorenzo Mora M.

The event was held at Jardin Mi Linda Gloria. Roberto Maldonado, Manuel Maclou, Rene Gonzalez, Dorotea Edward and Jose Valencia were unanimously accepted as leaders of this political organization.

Joaquin Beitia and Lorenzo Mora M. told those present that the aim of the new political organization which is being planned is to strengthen and deepen the process of change in our country.

The meeting ended with the unanimous agreement to attend the next meeting of the Provisional Committee for the Political Organization of the Panamanian Process on 14 January 1978.

For the information and publicity committee: Edilberto Mendez R. Cedula No. 4-138-2610.

BELIZE

UK SPOKESMAN DENIES AGREEMENT REACHED WITH GUATEMALA

FL101126Y Belize City Domestic Service in English 0100 GMT 10 Jan 78 FL

[Text] A spokesman from the Foreign Commonwealth Office in London was asked last Friday to comment on a letter sent to the secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, Dr David Owen, by Mr Richard (Lopes). In the letter, Mr (Lopes), a member of Parliament in Britain, asked for an assurance that there would be no agreement with Guatemala over Belize without the consent of the people and government of Belize.

The spokesman replied that the letter had not yet been received and in reply to the question on the British Government's position on the Belize question, he said that no agreement would be made with Guatemala unless it is acceptable to the government and the people of Belize. This has always been the position taken by Her Majesty's Government in London, he stated.

Asked to comment on press reports that agreement has been reached with Guatemala involving the transfer of a strip of land, the spokesman replied that there had been no agreement and the talks with the Guatemalan Government had been entirely exploratory. Asked if a date had been set for the next round of talks with the Guatemalan Government, the spokesman said none had been fixed. The last formal round of negotiations was held in Washington, D.C. on the 6th and 7th of July last year.

GUATEMALA

GOVERNMENT CALLS OFF SEARCH FOR MINISTER'S CAPTORS

PA110431Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2113 GMT 10 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 10 Jan (AFP)--The Guatemalan police today suspended the search for the kidnapers of former minister Roberto Herrera Ibarguen in order to facilitate his release, it was reported today in this capital. The authorities are trying to prevent any obstacles to the negotiations between the Herrera Ibarguen family and the kidnapers. The former minister was kidnaped on 31 December. The Poor People's Guerrilla Army has claimed credit for the kidnaping.

NICARAGUA

LA PRENSA DIRECTOR CHAMORRO ASSASSINATED

PA101608Y Panama city ACAN in Spanish 1547 GMT 10 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 10 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Dr Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal, director of LA PRENSA, was shot to death here today following a traffic accident. Initial reports to this effect were made by LA PRENSA newsmen and Managua Fire Department spokesmen. Fifty-three-year-old Chamorro had always been a harsh opponent of the government of Gen Anastasio Somoza Debayle.

The Managua radio stations have interrupted their regular programs to report on this event which has had a great impact in the country.

The traffic accident occurred at approximately 0600 (1400 GMT) in the former center of Managua, which was destroyed by the December 1972 earthquake. Chamorro Cardenal was traveling alone--as he usually did--in his car. The accident occurred at the intersection of Roosevelt Avenue and 15 September Street.

The unidentified driver of the automobile with license plate No MA-2D333 collided with Dr Chamorro's car. After the violent crash, the driver left his car and opened fire on Dr Chamorro. Dr Chamorro Cardenal was taken to the Oriental Hospital by unit No 11 of the Managua Fire Department. He was unconscious.

According to the initial reports, Chamorro Cardenal died in the ambulance, although his death was not confirmed until he arrived at the hospital.

LATIN Report

PA101636Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1610 GMT 10 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 10 Jan (LATIN)--Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, director of the opposition newspaper LA PRENSA, was assassinated today while he was going to work, his family has told LATIN. His relatives said that Chamorro was killed in the zone known as the "ruins" of Managua. His body had 20 shotgun wounds.

They said that an automobile intercepted the one being driven by Chamorro, who was alone. Another automobile approached the car and the assassins, whose identify is unknown so far, fired on Chamorro with 30 caliber shotguns, eyewitnesses said. The shots were fired at close range, destroying the window and hitting Chamorro in the arms, face and chest.

According to witnesses, the assassins abandoned an automobile and escaped in another vehicle. Chamorro's car crashed into a lightpost.

Chamorro, 53, was a staunch opponent of Gen Anastasio Somoza's government and head of the opposition Democratic Liberation Union Coalition. Chamorro had recently won the Moors Cabot Award.

Chamorro's relatives, including his brother Xavier, told this agency that they will demand "an exhaustive investigation to discover the murderers."

The news of Chamorro's assassination spread swiftly through the country. His son, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios, was one of the first to go to the hospital and was shocked when he saw his father's mangled body. "It is necessary for you newsmen to cooperate in order to discover not only the murderers but the reason for the crime," he said.

Xavier Chamorro Cardenal, brother of the victim and co-director and manager of the newspaper LA PRENSA, arrived shortly afterward. He said that he did not want to make any advance statements but that he expects the government to conduct an exhaustive investigation "because the newspaper will conduct one anyway and will use all means available."

Other close relatives of the slain newsman made similar statements. Included among them was Carlos Holmann Thompson, married to his sister Anita and member of the directive council of LA PRENSA.

Almost all members of the editing staff of the newspaper went to the hospital. Some of them, like chief editor, Danilo Aguirre and Hermogenes Balladares, helped gather the data for the initial investigations. Administrative employees like Juan Francisco Melendez, who has worked for 15 years at LA PRENSA, could not hold back their tears.

Some LA PRENSA reporters told LATIN that according to unconfirmed initial reports a taxi driver saw the murderers fire at Chamorro. They also said they are trying to obtain further data on the automobile bearing license plate MA2D333 which was left at the site of the crime. Aguirre said that beer cans had been left inside the automobile "only to confuse investigators", as well as a copy of the newspaper NOVEDADES.

National Guard Communique No 1

PA110153Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Jan 78 PA

[Communique No 1 from the Legal and Public Relations Office of the National Guard of Nicaragua on the murder of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro]

[Text] The Legal and Public Relations Office of the National Guard of Nicaragua informs the citizenry that at approximately 0900, when Dr Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal was traveling on 3rd South-West Street, the vehicle he was driving was rammed and intercepted in front of the former (Camas Lonas) building on Bolivar Avenue by two vehicles. The occupants of these two vehicles shot Dr Chamorro Cardenal, who died before arriving at Oriental Hospital in this city.

The criminals fled in one of the cars that participated in the attack. According to preliminary information gathered by the police, the vehicle that rammed into Dr Chamorro's car and was later abandoned half a block south of the site where the attack took place is a green Toyota with license plate MA-2D-333-77 registered under the name of Silvio Pena Rivas, a resident of Managua.

The National Guard of Nicaragua deeply regrets the death of Dr Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal and rejects the criminal attack carried out this morning by elements who are being sought by the police in order to clarify the events. The authorities are hereby requesting the cooperation of any person having any information or leads that could help in the investigation of this criminal action.

The National Guard of Nicaragua presents its condolences to the entire distinguished family of Dr Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal and condemns the blind violence of the criminals who killed a man who was always true to his ideals.

This office will provide further information in connection with the investigations being carried out by the authorities.

[Signed] Aquiles Aranda Escobar, colonel of the National Guard, chief of the Legal and Public Relations Office of the National Guard of Nicaragua.

Government Repudiation

PA102117Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2035 GMT 10 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 10 Jan (LATIN)--The Government of Gen Anastasio Somoza has issued a communique repudiating the murder of newsman and opposition leader Pedro Joaquin Chamorro and noting that it will utilize all the resources of the state to "find and punish the assassins."

The police are acting energetically. Even the home of a conservative deputy has been searched because of the deputy's family relationship with Silvio Pena Rivas, the owner of the green Toyota left abandoned by the assassins at the scene of the crime. Relatives of Pena Rivas have said that he sold the car some time ago and that its new owner, Carlos Castro Wassmer, painted it green. The police are now searching for Castro Wassmer in order to continue the investigations.

Efforts are also being made to locate the passengers of a taxi driven by Wilfredo Fuentes Chamorro who saw two of the assassins when they were changing cars carrying in their hands the rifles with which they had just killed Dr Chamorro, according to statements by Fuentes Chamorro.

The body of the murdered newsman was taken from Managua's Oriental Hospital at 1400 and taken to his home across from Las Palmas Park.

According to a poll conducted today by LATIN, 100 percent of the people condemn the assassination of Dr Chamorro. Since the victim was in the opposition, this puts the government in a position in which it must carry out a thorough investigation that will leave no room for doubt.

Somoza Promise

PA110415Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0356 GMT 11 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 10 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Gen Anastasio Somoza told a U.S. radio network today that Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal's killer "will be tried according to the country's laws." Somoza granted an interview to a reporter from the U.S. Mutual Radio Network headquartered in Washington. Somoza said that he considers Chamorro Cardenal's death a "tragedy for the Chamorro family and a tragedy for the country." He conceded that the director of the newspaper LA PRENSA was always faithful to his principles.

President Somoza said that he knew Pedro Joaquin Chamorro well, since he was 8 years old, and that he had always respected him, including the time when Chamorro headed an armed invasion in 1958. Somoza added that he had issued instructions to the effect that the greatest possible number of persons become involved in the investigation of Chamorro Cardenal's death, which occurred in a lonely street of the former center of Managua.

30,000 Accompany Body

PA110302Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0115 GMT 11 Jan 78 PA

[Dispatch from Managua by Eduardo Alvir--live]

[Excerpts] This is to inform listeners in Costa Rica that at this moment the body of Dr Pedro Joaquin Chamorro is being taken from Oriental Hospital, where it was prepared for several hours this afternoon, to the residence of the Chamorro family.

The body of the martyr journalist--Dr Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal--has not yet arrived at the home located across from Las Palmas Park, which is close to the site from which we are broadcasting.

A very large crowd is accompanying the body from Oriental Hospital, located approximately 4 km from his residence, where there is also a very large crowd including all social classes who are waiting and weeping. Labor, political, industrial, business, bank and economy groups, as well as workers and peasants, the humble and the rich, are accompanying the body of Dr Chamorro and singing the national anthem in an impressive demonstration of human sadness and sorrow. Persons on motorcycles and friends of the man who died in his struggle for liberty and democracy in his country are heading the improvised march.

So far there is no report on arrests in connection with the assassination. Silvio Pena Rivas, who was the owner of the green Toyota with license plate MA-55-111, was arrested this morning at the site of the attack against Dr Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal, under arrest at Managua's police headquarters after voluntarily surrendering himself once he realized he was being earnestly sought by the police.

Meanwhile, in another area of Managua, his driver, who was driving a vehicle also owned by Pena Rivas, was shot to death by police in circumstances which have not been yet clarified. We repeat: In another area of Managua, the driver of Silvio Pena, who was driving a vehicle owned by Silvio Pena, was shot to death by the police in circumstances that have not yet been clarified.

Pena Rivas, who is the son of Silvio Pena--an employee of the national Luz y Fuerza company--and of Ermida Rivas Pena, has told police that 2 years ago he sold the Toyota to Mr Castro Gil, who according to reports is now in Costa Rica.

Managua police records still indicate that Silvio Pena Rivas is the owner of the Toyota and it is for this reason that the police ordered his immediate arrest. Other persons have been arrested for questioning by the police.

Agents from the security office of the police Criminal Investigations Department and traffic authorities are participating in the investigation to capture the assassins.

Managua coroner Miguel Angel Aragon, after making a legal examination of the body, said that the shooting took place when the victim was traveling toward the daily LA PRENSA, which he owned. He said that the body has 30 holes that presumably were made by bullets from guns of various calibers that included 12 and 20 caliber sawed-off shotguns and other weapons of higher caliber. The body has bullet holes in the thorax, the right arm and the head.

It is estimated that between 20,000 and 30,000 persons are accompanying the body of Dr Pedro Joaquin Chamorro.

SOMOZA URGES AIDES TO WORK FOR PEOPLE'S BENEFIT

PA101440Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1220 GMT 10 Jan 78 PA

[Sercano network]

[Text] President Anastasio Somoza yesterday met with the Cabinet and managers of autonomous agencies to tell them that he expects them to carry out the government's tasks by implementing austerity and service programs for the benefit of the citizens.

Somoza said that during the next 3 years of his administration he wants his aides to follow the principle of working for the government through policies and techniques contributing to the country's economic stability.

The president's recommendation has been interpreted to mean that whoever is in disagreement with his ideas may step down. Somoza has had new aides since Christmas, who are being called the new blood.

ROMANIAN DEFENSE MINISTER TOURS SANTIAGO DE CUBA

FL101226Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Col Ion Coman, national defense minister of Romania and alternate member of the Executive Political Committee of that fraternal country's Communist Party Central Committee, has laid a floral wreath at the mausoleum holding the remains of Jose Marti at the Santiago de Cuba Santa Efigenia Cemetery. The Romanian delegation observed 1-minute of silence in honor of the intellectual author of the Moncada Barracks assault.

Col Ion Coman and the military delegation he heads also visited the Siboney farm and the 26 de Julio School city. During their tour of historical sites in Santiago de Cuba, the delegation was accompanied by PCC Central Committee members Div Gen Senen Casas Regueiro, first vice minister-chief of the [Revolutionary Armed Forces] General Staff, and Jose Balaguer, party first secretary in Santiago de Cuba.

ROCA RECEIVES NEW VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR

FL110314Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Jan 78 FL

[Text] This morning, Comrade Blas Roca Calderio, president of the People's Government National Assembly and vice president of the Council of State, received in solemn audience Mr Ramon Delgado who presented his credentials accrediting him as ambassador of the Republic of Venezuela. Comrade Isidoro Malmierca, minister of foreign relations, participated in the ceremony.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Venezuelan ambassador and his retinue went to the Plaza de la Revolucion where they laid a floral wreath before the statue of our apostle Jose Marti.

GRANMA PROVINCE HOSTS EVENT IN SOLIDARITY WITH PANAMA

FL102040Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1902 GMT 10 Jan 78 FL

[Text] An event of solidarity with Panama was held at the provincial teacher-training institute of higher education in the town of Bequitas, Granma Province. Elisandro Ballesteros, permanent representative of the Federation of Panamanian Students to the Continental Organization of Latin American Students, referred to the events that took place on 9 January 1964, during which 42 youths were massacred in the confrontation between the people and the Yankee occupants of the Canal Zone. Ballesteros stressed that their blood has fertilized the long path of the liberating struggle and expressed gratitude for the repeated demonstrations of solidarity of the Cubans toward Panama's just cause.

In his closing remarks, Carlos Fornari, president of the Federation of University Students in Granma Province, voiced the irrevocable solidarity of his organization and the Cuban people with the struggle of the Panamanian student body and masses for definitive independence.

HAVANA UNIVERSITY EVENT MARKS ANNIVERSARY

FL110255 [Editorial Report FL] Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish at 0128 GMT on 11 January carries a live relay of a ceremony marking the conclusion of a week of commemorative activities for the 250th anniversary of the University of Havana. The ceremony, which is also being carried by Havana Domestic Service (Radio Liberacion), is being held at the front steps of the university.

Immediately after the national anthem, staff announcer Manolo Ortega opens the proceedings by reporting that President Fidel Castro, Politburo, Secretariat and Central Committee members, ministers and other Cuban leaders are sitting at the presidium. He adds that members of the diplomatic corps are also in attendance. Ortega introduces Havana University Rector Eustaquio Remedios de Los Cueros, who announces that the university is conferring on Fidel Castro the 250th anniversary medal, adding that he is the first person to receive it. The rector adds that the medal is bestowed on Castro for "his many contributions to the education sector and, very especially, to the University of Havana." The rector is seen presenting the medal to Castro, who smiles and shows it to the crowd. Ortega announces the names of other persons receiving the medal.

Ortega then introduces Carlos Rafael Rodriguez who begins speaking at 0138 GMT. Rodriguez begins his speech by stating: "We are gathered tonight at the historic steps of the university which have witnessed many struggles waged by the student body." Going back to the days of the Machado regime, Rodriguez mentions numerous Cuban martyrs, among them, Mella, Trejo and others, who were killed fighting for "true independence."

Rodriguez goes back to the Spanish colonial days to mention Felix Varela and other Cuban patriots who participated in university rebellious actions against the Spanish Government. Examining the 19th century, Rodriguez says the university had been influenced by the church and the colonial government. "However," he adds, "it was then that the true Cuban ideals came into being." He praises Father Varela's denunciation of the Spanish crown. He mentions Luz y Caballero as one of the many who led the students in the initial struggles year-by-year. Rodriguez recounts the university students' actions during the 19th century.

Rodriguez states: "Even though on 20 May 1902 Maximo Gomez said that we had reached our goal, the truth of the matter was that this was not so, that a mere pseudorepublic had been established, a regime subjugated to a neocolonial power and a strong bourgeoisie." He then refers to the first steps taken by Enrique Jose Varona in his efforts to achieve a truly free republic. Rodriguez says: "His objectives were frustrated, the republic endured six more decades of submission."

Referring to the decade of the 20's, Rodriguez talks about Mella and his goal of a free socialist Cuba. He says Machado made a mistake when he ordered the assassination of Mella to stifle the rebellious outbreak at the university. He examines the actions against the Machado dictatorship.

He adds: "It was not until the 60's that it was possible to attain independence when Fidel led his courageous combatants in the final thrust against the dictatorship and began to build the socialist state that Mella had mentioned."

Rodriguez then begins to discuss Fidel's work at the university, the new structure that was created, the new policy for training professionals needed by the state, the accomplishments of the revolution in the effort to form men who contribute their intellect to building a new free society, and he adds: "No longer do the students have to gather on these steps to demand from the government justice and equal treatment for all citizens."

Praising Castro, Rodriguez says: "Castro embodies all the ideals of our martyrs." He says that we have not yet achieved all our goals, that today's student body has a lot to contribute. He adds that today's students have to give their best effort to studies to achieve a better future for the fatherland. He states that they must be a new type of student, that they must work harder to be good communists. Quoting Fidel, Rodriguez says: "He said not to believe but to read." He adds: "We must be increasingly better; we must be Marxist-Leninists." He says that the Cuban revolution demands from the students still more, internationalist tasks. In this respect, he mentions the participation of Cubans in the wars of Vietnam and Angola and adds that, "as Fidel has stated, no one and nothing will stop us from giving our aid to those who ask for it."

Referring to reports published abroad about thousands of Cubans in Africa and other parts of the world, Rodriguez says: "They are few compared to the number we would like to have abroad helping those who need our services, such as physicians, teachers, specialists and technicians. They are rendering services to our friends."

In closing, Rodriguez states: "We have buried our dead with dry eyes and tight lips, but they now emerge like those who fell in 1868 and 1895, in 1930, before the Moncada, like the combatants of the Sierra and Giron. Student Julio Antonio Mella, who was expelled from the university, forced to leave his fatherland and murdered in Mexico for being a communist, presides over our commemoration as a living hero. The history of the university, which is an inseparable part of that of our nation, in this manner confirms that the peoples, if they are willing, cannot be defeated. That is the experience which the Cuban people, who achieved victory after a century of continuous fighting, give to the fraternal peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America. Fatherland or death!" Rodriguez concludes his speech at 0253 GMT.

After the applause subsides, the Internationale is played.

PCC CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ATTEND RECEPTION

FL101350Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1314 GMT 10 Jan 78 FL

[Text] PCC Central Committee and Council of State member Belarmino Castilla has attended the reception for the 250th anniversary of the creation of the University of Havana, held at Cubanacan protocol hall. Also present were higher Education Minister Fernando Vecino Alegret and Minister-President of the State Committee for Science and Technology Zoilo Marinero, both PCC Central Committee members; along with Havana University Rector Dr Eustaquio Remedios.

CASAS REGUEIRO CONGRATULATES FAR VANGUARDS

FL071349Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 7 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Div Gen Senen Casas Regueiro, first vice minister-chief of the General Staff and PCC Central Committee member, has made the closing remarks at the event honoring the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] Ministry vanguard units and agencies, which was held at the FAR main club. The opening remarks were made by Frigate Capt Roberto Cruz who said that in 1977, almost 300 commanders, officers, soldiers and civilian workers became vanguards, and of these, 76 received the honor FAR Vanguard. Capt Alberto Hernandez read, in the name of the vanguards, a pledge which shows their determination to dedicate their strength and energy to further raise the level of quality to carry out the operational, combat and political training plans.

Div Gen Senen Casas Regueiro said that the emulation plays a very important role in the FAR; therefore, it should be increasingly reinforced at grassroots level. He also spoke of the necessity to economize the resources which the PCC and the state have put at the disposal of defense. Finally, he congratulated the vanguards whom he exhorted to achieve greater successes in 1978.

CDR, FMC SUPPORT CASTRO'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPEECH

FL070138Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 Jan 78 FL

[Text] The National Directorate of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution--CDR--has released a letter sent to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. The letter states that in response to the many manifestations of support for the speech he delivered at the second ordinary session of the People's Government National Assembly, the CDR National Directorate decided at an extraordinary meeting to express to him, on behalf of all members of the CDR, its full support for the pronouncements contained in the historic speech.

The Federation of Cuban Women [FMC] has expressed itself in similar terms by expressing its total identification with the momentous pronouncements. The FMC said: We pledge to Fidel and the party to double our efforts in building the future society and, in order to do this, we are willing to make whatever sacrifices are necessary.

BRIEFS

MACEO BRIGADE'S ACTIVITIES--The Antonio Maceo Brigade, which is composed of young Cuban emigres, has begun a program of visits to places of economic and social interest in Camaguey Province. The tour includes meetings with detachments of the Jose Marti Pioneer organization at the Camilo Cienfuegos Pioneer Circle of Camaguey. Among the places visited by the Antonio Maceo Brigade so far are the meat industry complex and the installations of the Manuel Fajardo physical education teacher-training school. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1220 GMT 6 Jan 78 FL]

NEW CULTURE VICE MINISTER--The Council of Ministers Executive Committee has appointed Comrade Antonio Nunez Jimenez as Culture Ministry vice minister in charge of international relations and directorate of cultural patrimony. Comrade Nunez Jimenez was Cuban ambassador to Peru for more than 5 years. He was elected deputy to the National Assembly in 1976. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Jan 78 FL]

Mr. Burnham said 1977 had been a most trying year, highlighted by a deepening of the world economic crisis, galloping inflation, and mounting or irreducible unemployment in both developed and developing countries.

On the other hand, he said, Guyana had reaped a bumper rice harvest (220,000 tons), and the price of oil did not rise at the end of December.

BURNHAM CALLS FOR CARICOM SUMMIT

FLO51545Y Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 3 Jan 78 p 1 FL

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, 2 Jan (CANA)--Guyana's Prime Minister Forbes Burnham has called for an urgent meeting of heads of government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

In a statement issued yesterday, the Guyanese leader said he welcomed the suggestion of his Jamaican counterpart, Michael Manley, for a summit.

But he added that there should be a series of preparatory meetings at ministerial level before the heads of government conference because of "the state of confusion which seems to exist within the region about the motives and activities of some of the member countries."

He proposed that during January, there should be separate meetings of minister of trade, economic development, finance and natural resources.

Mr. Burnham said Guyana did not believe that complaint against member countries was the way to solve difficulties now besetting the region.

"What is necessary at this stage is the re-introduction of dialogue rather than complaint and criticism", he said.

He suggested the region search "for those ways and means which will allow us to retain a unity within the scope of our diversity."

"We cannot dictate to each other and none of us should try", Mr. Burnham said.

But he added: "I believe that with vision and determination and with a will, we can put a halt to the drift in CARICOM."

Mr. Burnham suggested that Guyana should host one of the four ministerial meetings which he proposed, and the others should be hosted by other CARICOM states.

"It is our hope and expectation that the success of these meetings would create a climate in which one could look with confidence and optimism to the outcome of a heads of government meeting of CARICOM," he said.

He felt that if member countries were prepared to give serious thought to his suggestions, it was his belief that "there could be a halt to the trend towards fragmentation of CARICOM and that we can get back on the road to strengthening the regional organisation for the benefit of all our people."

"We owe it to the people who look to us for leadership not to let CARICOM fail", Prime Minister Burnham said.

UNION LEADERS CALL OFF SUGAR WORKERS STRIKE

PA060419Y Paris AFP in English 0404 GMT 6 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Georgetown, Jan 5 (AFP)--Union leaders today called off a four-and-a-half-month strike against Guyana's state-owned sugar industry.

The strike was called last August 24 by the Agricultural and General Workers Union (AGWU) to back demands that the government carry out a profit-sharing plan it had introduced in 1969.

Prime Minister Forbes Burnham's government [word indistinct] solidarity to break the strike, which it charged was politically motivated. The AGWU, Guyana's largest labor organization, is closely linked to the left-wing opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP) led by former Premier Cheddi Jagan.

Shortly before the strike began, Mr Jagan had called for a "national patriotic front government" coalition including both his own PPP and Mr Burnham's ruling People's National Congress (PNC) Party. Mr Burnham rejected the suggestion and subsequently charged that the strike was called to topple his government.

Opposition spokesmen retorted that Guyana's sugar workers were the lowest paid in the Caribbean region and were striking on account of economic grievances.

Official sources said the 134-day strike cost Guyana about 48 million dollars in foreign exchange.

URUGUAY

BRIEFS

NIGERIAN PURCHASES--The Nigerian trade delegation which is visiting us has promised to purchase foodstuffs, after contacts with the private and public sectors. Poultry, eggs, rice and pork products are among the purchases which will soon be shipped to Nigeria. [Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Jan 78 PY]

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